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SOCCER

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WEEKLY



\$3.00

Game 2:
Socceroos 0
Man. Utd. 1

Copa ala
Samba

Brazil rule South America p 22-23

SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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THIS WEEK...

- 3.....Australian news
- 4.....Sharp Challenge Cup
- 5.....Sharp Challenge Cup
- 6.....Sharp Challenge Cup
- 7.....Sharp Challenge Cup
- 8.....Australian features
- 9.....Australian features
- 10.....NSW Super League
- 11.....Soccer Woman
- 12.....Victorian Leagues
- 13.....Victoria Premier League
- 14.....Queensland
- 15.....Soccer Canberra
- 16.....AUSTRALIA V UNITED Game 1
- 17.....AUSTRALIA V UNITED Game 1

- 18.....Global Game Cover
- 19.....Asia
- 20.....Scandinavia
- 21.....North America
- 22.....South America
- 23.....South America
- 24.....Italy
- 25.....Europe
- 26.....Europe
- 27.....Europe
- 28.....UK
- 29.....UK
- 30.....UK
- 31.....UK

REMINDER

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*Fax 02 96777888

*Write to Bruce McAvaney at PO Box Epping, NSW 2121

Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular football code in their recent Net site poll.

BRAZILIAN GLORY

Brazil has won the Copa America after defeating Uruguay in the Final.

The win is sweet revenge for the Samba Kings who lost the 1995 Copa final to Uruguay.

For the full report on the game, turn to page 23.



Simon Colosimo once again impressed for Australia.

So yet another defeat for the Socceroos but at least these two defeats, at the hands of the best Club side at the moment, have had a positive aspect to them.

You may say that this doesn't make sense, two losses out of two but look at all of the good things to come out of the games and then you start to realise what a great tour it was for the Socceroos.

For one, the teams that represented Australia at both the MCG and Stadium Australia were not our most strongest sides with the likes of Zelic, Kewell and Viduka to name a few.

The players that represented Australia's number one side was made up on the majority by our Olyroo side and the two matches gave them some much needed experience and of course some quality opposition.

The matches gave players the opportunity to step up and make themselves heard to coach Blanco and it wasn't surprising to see that most of them did just that.

Names such as Laybutt, Colosimo and Petkovic were previously unheard of but their performances in particular have made people stand up and take notice.

Micheal Petkovic impressed all even his opponents in the first game at the MCG as he was the man who kept the scoreline at only 2-0.

Petkovic put his body on the line time and time again and after the game, he along with Foxe and Colosimo were named by many of United's players as the

YOUNG PLAYERS SHINE DESPITE DOUBLE UNITED LOSS

Socceroos best on the park.

Petkovic rushed out from his goals restricting the amount of time the United strikers had and with that came a spraying wide of their opportunities.

The chance that Jonathon Greening missed in the first half was one that most players in the team would have put away on any day but Petkovic pressured the United into making silly errors in front of goals.

Micheal was expected by many to take a back seat to his brother, Jason, but he was rewarded with the number one jersey and he has not made a mistake in any of the games.

Hayden Foxe was once again strong for the Socceroos and these two games have only helped bolster his reputation as one of our best young stars.

Foxe kept the defence in tact when it was expected to crumble under the weight of Cole, Yorke and Sheringham but he along with Tobin showed that they are capable of playing in any league in the world.

Stephen Laybutt was one of the many others who impressed on the tour but especially in Melbourne as he seemed to thrive on the occasion and show his potential, one which many fans have not yet witnessed.

Other players such as Brett Emerton and Vince Grella also shone, players who are expected to lead our campaign in the 2000 Olympics.

Grella was yet another to impress in front of his home crowds after making a daring move to Empoli in Italy.

The trip to Italy has turned Grella into a superb midfielder with pace to burn and his attitude and spirit when playing the game, makes him a competitive player at all times.

It was safe to say that all of the players shone through on the United tour as they rose above all the expectations to keep United, we were expected to romp home in both games,

to two small victories.

All goes well for next year as these players have now faced some of the best players in the world, players of the calibre that are better than what they will expect to face at the Olympics.

The side mainly made up of Olyroos has done the nation proud and has showed that we have been able to compete with the best that England has to offer.

Overall after all the arguing and disappointment over the strength of the Australian side, the nation as a whole should stand up to every one of the players and acknowledge a team which has done better than expected, one which we are proud to call Australian.



Micheal Petkovic impressed all as he kept out United's best.



Action from the Australia versus Manchester United game at the MCG. For a full match report on both games, turn to pages five and seven.

Australian News

RATCLIFFE TO TAKEOVER AT EDENSOR PARK



Ratcliffe will now face the difficult task of leading United throughout the season

Reigning National League Minor Premiers, Sydney United have appointed David Ratcliffe as their new coach for the 1999/2000 season.

Ratcliffe has been given the position in the hope that he can produce some minor miracles at the club, those along the lines that David Mitchell achieved last year.

The terms of Ratcliffe's contract are not yet known although it is thought that it is only for this coming season with the option of an extension at the end of the season.

The vacant position has come about following the defection of former Sydney United player/coach, David Mitchell to city rivals, Parramatta Power.

Mitchell led the charge last year taking them to the Grand Final and Minor Premiership when few had expected them to make it into the Semi's.

The task will be made even more difficult for Ratcliffe as the club has lost more than half of last year's squad meaning that the former Wollongong and Sydney Olympic coach must now shop around for new players, this only two months from the start of the new season.

Ratcliffe however is a cool customer and has had plenty of NSL experience as both a player and a coach.

The United coach has played over 300 games in the league including stints at Sydney Olympic, Wollongong and St. George.

Following his playing days, Ratcliffe turned to coaching where he has once again notched up a very impressive record, coaching over 200 NSL games including seven years at Wollongong and 18 months at Sydney Olympic.

Ratcliffe has also represented the Socceroos, making 55 appearances in the 1980s.

This season will be the most important in Sydney United's history as they, along with a number of other clubs fight for their inclusion into the 2000/01 league competition.

Soccer Australia only a few weeks ago made the decision that both Parramatta and Auckland had been included into the league and at the same time, they announced the proposal of a club qualification criteria for the 2000 league season.

Although the criteria would seem to suit the bigger clubs, United have struggled with their finances and the future looks bleak for the side although where there is life there is hope and one thing that United does not lack is that good old fighting spirit.

Ratcliffe is happy however just to get back into the grind of top class coaching.

"I was approached about two weeks ago, this after I hadn't been coaching for 18 months.

"It was the first real break I've had since 1978 since I first came to Australia either as a player or as a coach.

"I sought of recharged my batteries. I enjoyed the

break but I also wanted to get involved again and obviously the opportunity is there at Sydney United.

"Our aim like everyone else is to make the playoffs and anything else would be a bonus, but I am not under any illusions that it won't be a difficult year cause I know it will be.

"The early games will be a big test for us."

Sydney United will start training next Monday(26), following that is a tour to China where they will play against teams from China, Japan and Columbia.

The first chance that Sydney fans will get to see the new coach and new look team in action will be in the David Carly

and Peter Forsyth Memorial Cup when they host Wollongong City.

The road ahead is tough for United after last year's fairytale run but if there is one man possible of pulling off this task, well then David Ratcliffe is the right man.

NEXT WEEK WE WILL HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW COACH OF SYDNEY UNITED, DAVID RATCLIFFE AS WE TALK ABOUT HIS FUTURE AT THE CLUB AND WHAT HE EXPECTS IN THE SEASON AHEAD FOR UNITED.

UNITED TO GOOD BUT WHAT ABOUT COLOSIMO REF?

The Manchester United tour has come and gone without too much of a problem to the visiting side as two wins from two starts will show.

As well as the much needed match fitness that the team achieved on the tour, they have managed to escape any injuries, well that is at least so far.

United now move onto Asia where they will play China later this week.

United however do have a lot of training ahead of them but in the end, class prevailed although in the second game, our boys dominated on the park but our failure to finish the chances cost us big.

Both games were played without any ill tempers or moments of controversy except for one instant.

What we witnessed in the 31st minute of the game is something that FIFA has been trying to put a stop to, that is the illegal attack.

It just so happened that we all witnessed one of these and the scene does not stand pretty in the minds of all.

Simon Colosimo, clearly one of the better players in the first game for Australia, was chopped and left for dead by United's Andy Cole as the young Aussie was taken off on a stretcher.

Call it an accident or call it just bad luck, the question on everyone's lips was, why wasn't the striker given his marching orders right on the spot.

When Cole was not told to hit the showers or even given a warning by the referee, it came across as though the laws of the game had been changed overnight to allow players to start the good old slide tackle.

"That challenge was a very bad challenge on Colosimo," cried Socceroo coach Raul Blanco in the postmatch press

conference.

"I thought it was certainly not a fair tackle at all."

Referee Simon Micallef for whatever reason failed to punish the offence which is what FIFA has been trying to put an end to, for the safety of all the players.

It is still uncertain how serious the injury is to Colosimo although it looks as though time on the injury list is almost a certainty.

This injury may well have ended the young players chances of playing overseas this season as the young defender has been trialing with different European club sides.

Referee Micallef has been in charge of some very important matches and it makes you think why wasn't Cole sent-off.

Did he not see the tackle that may well send Colosimo under the knife or did he feel as though it was a fair challenge (if he did he must have been watching another game)?

Well despite that little blemish, United have dazzled the crowds and although they aren't playing to their potential, United did however put something back into the Australian community as well as just playing soccer.

United on Saturday made a trip to the Children's hospital in Randwick, Sydney and although the whole squad did not turn up, those that went there, put a smile on the faces of the sick kids.

Overall it has been a pleasure to have the team out here and apart from the small blemish on Sunday, we all enjoyed the tour and hope it is not the last time that United come down to Australia.



Cole absolutely smashed Colosimo in an incident that we would all rather forget.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

Marconi Stallions National Youth League Trials

Paul Okon (Fiorentina / ITALY & Socceroos) — Steve Corica (Wolverhampton / ENGLAND & Socceroos), Mark Schwarzer (Middlesbrough / ENGLAND & Socceroos). Just a few of the long list of players that started their illustrious football careers at Marconi.

The next wave of Australian Soccer talent is being groomed now and the opportunity to be a part of this action is solely up to you. The Marconi Stallions National Youth League team trials will be conducted on the following dates:

DAY	DATE	YEAR OF BIRTH	TRIAL TIME
FRIDAY	23rd July, 1999	1981, 1982 or 1983	6.00pm
MONDAY	26th July, 1999	1981, 1982 or 1983	6.00pm
WEDNESDAY	28th July, 1999	1981, 1982 or 1983	6.00pm

WHERE? - Back Fields at Marconi Stadium (Fields No. 2 & 3)

WHAT TO BRING? - Playing Gear (Boots, Shinpads etc...)
- Determination and Enthusiasm

If you were born in any of the above years and believe you have the ability and determination to play soccer at the top level in Australia, simply turn up to the venue on the aforementioned dates.

For further information, contact the Marconi Soccer Office on 9823 2222.

PLEASE NOTE

If you are currently registered with another club, you MUST have written permission from that Club in order to attend the aforementioned trials.

Sharp Challenge Cup

What they said after the battle at Stadium Australia



Raul Blanco was happy with his team after the game.

By John Economos

The Press Conference room last Sunday afternoon at Sydney's Olympic Stadium was packed as both print and electronic media filed in to bombard the two coaches and respective captains with a multitude of questions.

First targets to enter the crowded room were Manchester United's coach Steve McLaren in tandem with his captain and left defender Denis Irwin.

The affable red haired McLaren stated: "I was generally pleased with United's performance."

"Our trip to Australia initially was a concern as we were jet-lagged for the first match in Melbourne and we were in preparation for the coming season in England."

"It's a pre season exercise and we still have a long way to go."

"We have now had two hard games and are a lot fitter now and have suffered no real injuries."

"The Australians are a tough opposition. We have been very well looked after since we arrived."

"Understandably we have had a lot of media attention, there's been a lot of travelling as well as playing, so it's been a tough schedule."

When questioned as to how United saw the Sydney pitch as against the horrific track they experienced last week in Melbourne, McLaren slowly smiled and ended with: "Yes Sydney's pitch was much better thankfully."

Meanwhile McLaren's captain Denis Irwin who was sitting on his left (no pun intended), stated: "It was physical out there today and Australia made it hard for us."

"Australia I thought was a better team today than us and they had a lot more confidence than in the first game in Melbourne."

"I felt also that they created a lot more chances than us."

When ABSW questioned the Manchester United skipper if any Australian player caught his attention, Irwin recoiled with: "Yes, the back-three (Tobin, Foxe, Laybutt), as well as Lazaridis (Stan)."

"We know Stan very well from England as we do of Tiatto (Danny). Both were very good," ended United's captain.

Then it was Australia's turn to face the media as coach Raul Blanco filed into the press room followed by the lanky Australian marker and skipper, Alex Tobin.

A normally jovial Blanco, had a serious facial expression as he attended to the first question fired at him.

How did he feel his team performed in this match as against to the first game in Melbourne?

Staring wide eyed at the media scrum Blanco quickly stated: "I was delighted with this effort which was much better than in the first game."

"Before both games I was most concerned with the enormous challenge facing us with so many young players. But they did well and handled the situation much better than most expected."

"I was also concerned that they may get a little stage fright in front of the big crowds, but they were O.K."

"For example Foxe (sweeper) is a

young man and a player who will play for our Olympic team and then our senior team for many years to come I feel."

But when questioned about the tackle that creamed and that ultimately had his young right defender

Simon Colosimo stretched off the pitch, Blanco unhesitatingly and very clearly quipped back: "That challenge (made by United's striker Andy Cole in the 31st minute

on Colosimo's left knee) was a very bad challenge on Colosimo."

"I thought it was certainly not a fair tackle at all."

At the end, Blanco was suddenly hit with the question of, 'was he disappointed that it seems like he is not going to be considered for the position as fulltime national coach?'

"Yes I am very, very disappointed. It seems that many names have been mentioned and suggested in the media, but never mine."

"I feel I have the experience and I feel some of the nasty comments directed at me in the media are a little more than unfair."

"Especially when these hurtful comments are being made by a colleague (former national coach)."

In wrapping up Blanco's thoughts on his team:

"I believe that we created far more chances than United, and this was especially gratifying as some of my players were playing out of their normal

positions such as Aurelio Vidmar upfront who normally likes to sit just behind the front runners," Blanco ended.

Australian captain Alex Tobin faced the media last but he was very pleased with the effort of his team.

"Australia performed admirably and all the young guys that came into the side did very well."

"In fact the young ones now are putting much pressure on the older players which is very good."

"I didn't think United created too many chances despite them having a much better understanding between themselves being a settled squad," Tobin ended.

FOR MORE NEWS ON BOTH
THE MELBOURNE AND
SYDNEY GAMES, TURN TO
PAGE EIGHT



Alex Tobin... once again led from the front.

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Youth Team Coach: Gary Van Egmond

Supporters View

By Mike Popovic, student and now converted soccer fan

Sunday will be a day that few will forget and I must say that the same applied to myself.

The chance to watch Manchester United play Australia did not appeal to me that much but when I was offered a ticket to go, I jumped at the chance.

Upon arriving at the ground, the stadium was packed and it wasn't long before all the fans got into the swing of things.

I took my seat just as the teams were entering the stadium.

The game began at a frantic pace and after watching the first game between the two sides on television, it looked as though Australia had regrouped themselves as they came out with attacking flair and that feeling of invincibility.

They were getting more and more into the game although as always happens, the side who don't look the best come out and make something form nothing.

United made a break, one pass and goal and as they say, that's all folks.

It turned out to be the only goal of the game although looking back at it after the game, it was a goal of class and great finishing form Yorke.

The tackle on Colosimo only a matter on minutes later seemed a bit harsh to say the least and I was surprised as many that the offender wasn't given a harsher penalty than just a talking to.

Overall I felt that Australia were the better side but it always doesn't mean that best the best side finishes on top.

Maybe United were suffering from their long trip or maybe they were just

outplayed, but whatever it was, you have to say thanks to both teams for showing a better spectacle than what was witnessed on Thursday. Maybe it had to do with the pitch?

After the game I left the ground satisfied knowing that I had seen what maybe is the best side in the world and if given the opportunity, I would go and watch them again.

I think if more quality soccer teams were brought down to Australia, then the public would support these ventures with open arms especially as almost 150,000 soccer fanatics witnessed both games.

Come on promoters, lets kick a goal for soccer in Australia and lets do it now.

Sharp Challenge Cup



The men in white keep marching on



Game soured by bad Colosimo tackle

MANCHESTER UTD 1
Dwight Yorke, 25
AUSTRALIA 0
 Stadium Australia, Sydney

By John Economos

Manchester United's magnificent left flanker Ryan Giggs, engineered the sole goal that lifted the treble trophy winning English giants to their 1-0 victory over Australia last Sunday at Sydney's Olympic Stadium.

Having in the 25th minute drifted well infield from his normal left line area, the brilliant Giggs punched a fabulous flat, diagonal through ball to his right that completely split Australia's entire defence and quickly gathered in by coloured striker Dwight Yorke. In a flash Yorke controlled and blasted from an angle just inside the far post leaving Petkovic with no chance.

Further disaster struck Australia just six minutes later when mobile right defender Simon Colosimo was stretchered off with damaged ligaments to his left knee when crudely felled by a vicious lunging tackle over the top by Manchester's striker, Andy Cole. Colosimo was replaced by Jacob Burns.

Cole should have considered himself most fortunate that 'philanthropic' Sydney referee Simon Micallef didn't reach into his top left pocket for either coloured card.

But despite United's powerful and heavy-



Wilson(l) and Emerton(r) fighting for control of the ball.

weight reputation, plus this goal deficit, it could have been ever-so-different had things gone the young and courageous Australian side's way, heavily stacked by members of the Olympic 2000 Olyroo team.

Totally undaunted by Manchester's recently achieved incredible 'Treble Cup Triumphs', Australia gallantly dived into battle, superbly inspired by mobile left wingback Stan Lazaridis, industrious midfielder Kasey Werhman and the the defiant, Danny Tiatto.

The gallant young Australian side forced six corners to United's one, and even more impressive was Australia's four shots on goal, double that was made by United.

Sure United was minus five of their regulars who didn't even arrive in Australia.

But then again, this Australian unit was facing the might of the Red Devils without six of its regular national team members who had failed to obtain releases from their Euro clubs to come here.

But here we are talking about England's, as well as Europe's, best hardened professional gladiators against seven of Australia's so called part-timers.

Australia's giant 73rd minute substitute striker

Clayton Zane, with an ounce of luck very late in the game, could have strolled off the pitch a sensational national hero by forcing a draw, or even winning the match.

In the 88th the luckless lanky Northern Spirit marksman gathered in a pass sprayed wide to him on the left by industrious midfielder Kasey Werhman. However Zane's rising rocket flashed just outside the top left angle of the target.

Seconds from fulltime it was again Zane that seriously threatened to score as he burst clear into United's box.

But this time the English professional defence sprung the off side trap in a flash and the linesman's flag denied Zane and Australia at least a very well earned draw.

United's flat and static back four of Phil Neville, Stam, Berg and skipper Irwin, proved far too experienced as well as too physically strong to be hindered by Australia's twin strikers of Aurelio Vidmar and Brett Emerton.

Both strikers were in fact filling in as make shift strikers, an experiment that must be immediately abandoned for any future internationals.

Cole was seen in action again in the 37th minute when he latched onto a ball rifled over the top but his sting-lacking volley which sailed into Jason Petkovic's gloves.

A minute later Australia looked dangerous as Emerton was freed into United's box on the left, but his final and awkward effort went far too wide of the far post.

Four minutes from the break West Ham's highly mobile Lazaridis ignited

proceedings for Australia as he played a one-two with Vidmar.

Just as Lazaridis bulldozed his way into United's box, Mark Bosnich in a flash was off his line and smothered the danger from close range.

Early after the break Werhman spotted Bosnich well off his line and tried a long lob, but the alert Bosnich was on his 'bike' to back pedal and save very well.

In the 66th minute Cole threatened from the edge of the box but only managed to

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 78,032.

Referee: Simon Micallef (Sydney).

Australia: Jason Petkovic; Colosimo (Burns 31st), Tobin, Foxe, Laybutt, Lazaridis; Aloisi (Grella 73rd), Werhman, Tiatto; Emerton (Zane 73rd), Aurelio Vidmar.

Manchester United: Bosnich (Van Der Gouw 76th); Phil Neville (Clegg 76th), Stam, Berg, Irwin; Cruyff (Greening 69th), Butt, Wilson (Gunnar Solskjaer 65th), Giggs; Cole (Sheringham 73rd), Yorke.

Yellow Cards: Nil.

Red Cards: Nil.

shave the base of the Australian left upright.

With 15 minutes left, tenacious substitute Vince Grella fed Tiatto on the gallop who got himself into United's box.

However again Bosnich was ever-so brave flying off his line to dive onto Tiatto's shooting boot and most safely gathered in.

United's defence defiantly marshalled so majestically by the steel hard and hairless stopper Jaap Stam, looked impregnable till Zane's two late raids.

Best for Australia were Lazaridis, Werhman, Foxe and Tiatto for their ceaseless efforts whilst midfielder Mark Wilson, Stam, Giggs and Bosnich stood out for the current England and European Champions.



Giggs was great for United.

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Sharp Challenge Cup

The MCG: what a disgrace

Soccer in Australia will never go ahead in this country after the disgrace that was witnessed at last Thursday's game at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

In particular, I am talking about the state of the pitch, or was it a paddock with some white lines painted around the edges.

Come on Melbourne, this is the greatest soccer team in the world at club level and what you give them is a ground that wouldn't even be played on by a school team.

Now we all know that the ground is used for Aussie Rules during the winter but why didn't they stop playing on the ground for two weeks so that the ground staff

critical of the surface and it is easy to see why.

Manchester United care-taker Manager, Steve McClaren was highly critical of the pitch as he expected it to be in a better state that was found on Thursday.

"I saw the game on television when Australia played Iran", McClaren said.

"There is no way that you can describe that as a football pitch.

"When we trained on it, we were surprised at the quality and it looked like a rugby pitch outside of a cricket pitch."

Australian coach Raul Blanco was even more harsh in his comments saying that the ground is not fit to host Olympic soccer games.

on the surface and break something or hurt themselves.

Remember, these players are only in Australia for pre-season training and these two matches in Australia will be their least important matches in the long and tough season ahead.

Was this one of the reasons why United did not use most of their big guns, names such as Giggs and Stam who only played a handful of minutes and striker Andy Cole who failed to even get onto the pitch.

The MCG trust the next day responded to the cries of the players and officials by promising that the surface would be replaced with a special surface, one which has been used at the San Siro in Milan.

But the damage has been done to the image of soccer in Australia although luckily for the promoters, none of the players had been injured.

The game which was televised to the United Kingdom was not a positive promotion for the quality of our pitches and once again, soccer in this country has shot itself in the foot.

So what could have been done to avoid the MCG pitch fiasco?

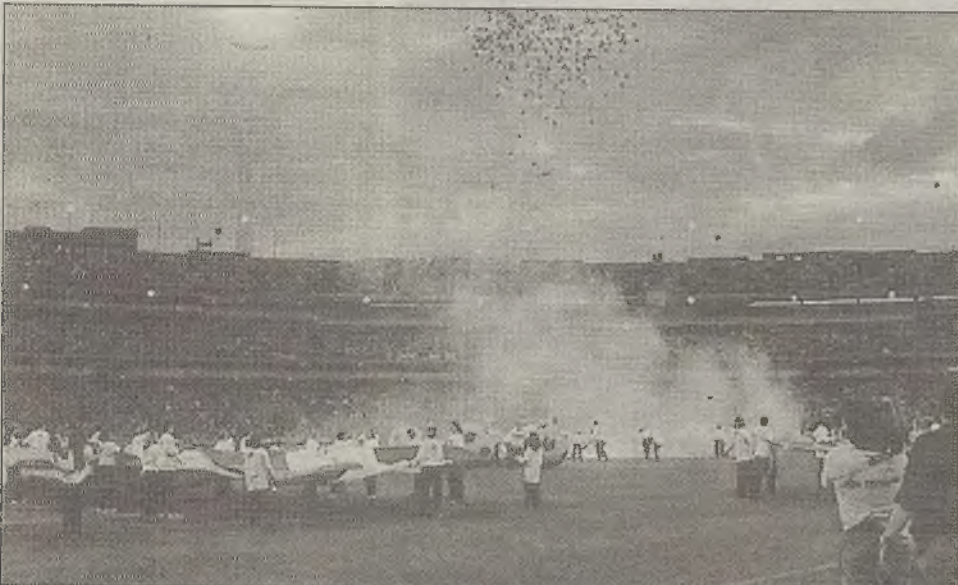
One idea may have been to shift the game form the MCG to another ground in Melbourne or even another state.

The only problem with this idea is that the the opportunities for revenue would have been considerably less than that available at the MCG.

I'm sure the players would have produced a greater spectacle if the game was played at Suncorp Stadium in Queensland, which holds 40,000 or the Adelaide Oval in South Australia, although the latter is set up as a cricket field and supporters would not have been as close to the action as at the MCG.



Sheringham went close to scoring although the pitch cost him, on this occasion the ball took a bad bounce costing him to blast over.



This was the state of the MCG the last time Australia played at the ground, this against Iran.

could have prepared a surface that could have at least provided a bit of a spectacle.

Balls were bouncing over players and it was hard for even the most skilful of players to control the ball and as we know, United have some of the most skilled players in the world.

Everyone expected a flat, smooth and firm surface for the game but what the players found was a bouncy, bumpy and very hard surface.

Both coaches and players after the game were highly

"You can't play real soccer on this surface," said Blanco.

"If the ground is in this condition, I think we can forget about the Olympics. It's an absolute disgrace."

United captain, Denis Irwin also criticised the surface as it was a far cry to what the team plays on each week at home.

"You needed two or three touches out there when really you are used to just one on a good pitch."

And what if one of the players was to fall over or slip

Of course it was a huge event to have United play in Australia and especially at one of the best grounds in the country, but why was the surface that bad and will this be a deterrent to future proposed tours.

Another point of discussion from the night was the disappointing crowd which attended the match.

The final crowd figure was posted at some 70,000 although an exact amount was not given.

The expectations were that the game would be close to a sell-out and the crowd, which was almost 30,000 less than capacity, was a disappointment considering the amount of Englishmen living in Australia as well as United's status as the best team in the world.

Overall it was an honour to have United in the country and in Melbourne although the disgraceful pitch that was thrown up to them was one of the reasons which could have led to such a dull and in most cases boring match.



HILLS UNITED SOCCER CLUB Coaches / Coaches

This ambitious and progressive club invites applications for the following coaching positions for the Year 2000

Cadet League — Division 2

Under 11 and Under 12

Youth League Division 1

Under 13 to Under 16

State League — Division 2

Under 18s, Under 21s and 1st Grade

Correspondence is to be forwarded to

**Mr Steve Herron,
PO Box 1662**

Castle Hill 1765 by COB 18th August 1999

Have Your Say ...

To Patrick Smith of The Age Newspaper,

Your article entitled, "Strike three for soccer's bid to encroach" did seem to sum up the general opinion regarding the sideshow before the actual soccer match that took place on the MCG on Thursday, 16th July 1999.

Yet, as for soccer's future in Australia, it is surely far too soon to predict that it cannot make a bigger impact on the sporting landscape here.

Whilst the national league has experienced far worse crises than many other sports, it still continues to build and rebuild, however slowly.

No amount of suggested internal divisions in the code can kill it off. Not even your own 'words of wisdom' and all of the negative press that mainly stems from Aussie rules-affiliated writers.

In fact, you guys have given it so much attention lately, that it is certainly no wonder Ian Collins of the AFL suggested to the Herald Sun that all you ever hear about is "soccer, soccer, soccer".

It goes without saying that over 70,000 soccer watchers at the MCG will significantly be a larger turnout than what the AFL will draw for each of its forthcoming weekend fixtures.

On that alone, Soccer Australia should, and hopefully will, schedule other high profile football games in Melbourne right in the heart of the AFL season every year. Might as well keep the pressure

on, because soccer has an unlimited number of dice rolls left.

I predict at least one every four years, or maybe one every two years, depending on what FIFA decides with regards to the World Cup.

It doesn't matter what the AFL does or doesn't do — there are enough soccer fans (and aussie rules haters) in Victoria and the other states to keep soccer 'alive and kicking', to borrow an already heavily borrowed phrase.

The soccer fraternity is in this for the long haul, no matter how long it takes for the game to fully rival 'the other football'.

Oh, by the way, keep up the Aussie rules articles — the sport that still can't rule Australia either.

**Mark Fisher,
Parkville, Victoria**

Dear Sir,

All those critics complaining that our overseas based soccer players are greedy are all wrong. Why should they play for peanuts when Manchester United will get \$4 million to attend and play two games to entertain the public.

These games are not classed as international games, as a club team is involved, therefore playing just for the glory of your country, when the promoter's will make a healthy profit isn't really fair.

It isn't just a question of money but principle. Why

should Ned Zelic, Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell and others play for a tenth of what the Manchester United players will get, including fellow compatriot Mark Bosnich, when nothing hinges on the outcome of these games.

I am sure that they would play for nothing if the visitors did the same, and all profits went to charity. It's all very well to offer overseas teams huge amounts of money to come out here and pay, but what, about a fair share for our overseas superstars, or is Rene Rivken playing on the fact that our young Olyroo (Under 23) players need the invaluable experience of tough matches, (which will be even more so this time next year) for the Olympic glory of a gold medal.

If so, he is the smartest soccer promoter around, and is in for a killing next year around July and August if he can arrange more big international club and national sides to come out and play our Olyroos under the guise that it's our top side.

For Olympic Glory will mean more than money for most of our young Olyroo (Socceroo) players in Sydney 2000.

Meanwhile, Rene will go laughing all the way to the bank. Very clever indeed (if the public falls for it again next year).

**Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.**

Sharp Challenge Cup



United we stand, divided Australia fell



Tired United to good for Socceroos

MANCHESTER UNITED 2
Blomqvist 45, Butt 75
AUSTRALIA 0
MCG, Melbourne

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Treble-winning Manchester United won the first game of the Sharp Challenge Cup on Thursday night, defeating Australia 2-0 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Two world class goals helped United ease to their 2-0 victory after the Socceroos had shown some early promise.

They took to the field minus the likes of Ryan Giggs and Andy Cole but still did enough to ensure the win was relatively comfortable.

Over 70,000 fans, many of them paying a lot of money, witnessed a game that was largely disappointing.

United are in pre-season mode and certainly looked like it whilst the Socceroos were nervous at the beginning and although they got their act together for the majority of the match, never really gave the impression that they were going to win.

But given that this was probably the youngest Socceroo side ever, they performed extremely creditably.

The MCG surface also had a lot to do with it, virtually ruining the game as a spectacle.

Australian coach Raul Blanco launched a stinging attack on the pitch, which is to be used for the 2000 Olympics the said it was simply not up to scratch and that we might as well forget about the Olympics if the pitch isn't drastically improved.

United assistant manager Steve McClaren and skipper Denis Irwin agreed with Blanco. They

expected to find an MCG surface not dissimilar to the one when the Socceroos played Iran two years ago.

Youngster Mark Wilson had the first chance of the game after just two minutes when sent clear but he spooned his shot over the bar when he had just Michael Petkovic to beat.

The South Melbourne 'keeper was in the action

owed much to some shocking defence by the Socceroos who failed to push up once the corner had been taken short.

The goal broke the backs of the Australian's who looked as though they were getting more and more into the match even though their opponents were playing at half pace.

Petkovic needed to be at his best to keep the



United celebrate their first goal at the MCG scored by Blomqvist.

again shortly after. Jesper Blomqvist's cross was headed into the air by David May and Petkovic, with Teddy Sheringham to contend with, dropped the ball straight at the feet of Henning Berg who shot against the bar.

Petkovic did appear to be impeded but referee Mark Shield wouldn't hear any of his pleas.

Mark Bosnich, playing his first game for United and his first against Australia, pulled out a terrific save in the 22nd minute to deny Danny Tiatto's flying header from a Stan Lazaridis cross.

Lazaridis was by far Australia's best player on the night although the United defence did not allow him any space to make his famous runs at the defence.

Five minutes later another of United's young players, Jonathon Greening, had the best opportunity to open the scoring.

A lucky rebound off the legs of Sheringham sent Greening clear but like Wilson before him, he panicked and pushed his shot wide of the post although he was pressured by keeper Petkovic into rushing the shot.

United finally broke the deadlock with a goal two minutes into first half stoppage time.

A corner was played short to Dwight Yorke who rolled it to Phil Neville to pick out the unmarked Blomqvist on the far post for him to volley spectacularly into the net.

The goal, though a terrific effort by Blomqvist,

score at one nil just a minute into the second period when he kept out Sheringham's shot.

Aurelio Vidmar, who worked hard up front by himself, nearly levelled in the 57th minute.

Ross Aloisi's corner flicked off the head of Nicky Butt and to the far post where Vidmar found the ball just to high for him and headed over from almost under the crossbar although replays showed that Henning Berg was the hero for United heading the ball over the bar.

With fifteen minutes to go, United made the game safe with another spectacular goal and for the second time in the match, a goal which came out of nothing.

Again it came from a short corner played out to Neville who knocked it back into the centre for Butt to lift the ball and then launch a stunning volley that arrowed into the top corner.

Aloisi, standing on the line, had little time to react to the fierce shot which meant that 'keeper Petkovic was absolutely powerless to do anything.

Butt later on, told Channel Seven that his first touch let him down but he more than made up for it with a stunning finish.

The fear that United might run up a cricket score did not eventuate, even though

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: Approx 70,000

Referee: Mark Shield

Australia: Michael Petkovic, Simon Colosimo, Stan Lazaridis, Hayden Foxe, Alex Tobin, Stephen Laybutt, Brett Emerton, Vince Grella (Kasey Wehrman 71), Aurelio Vidmar (Clayton Zane 87), Ross Aloisi, Danny Tiatto (Jacob Burns 81).

Manchester United: Mark Bosnich, Phil Neville, Denis Irwin (John Curtis 63), David May (Jaap Stam 78), Henning Berg (Wes Brown 78), Mark Wilson (Michael Clegg 82), Jon Greening (Ryan Giggs 76), Nicky Butt, Dwight Yorke, Teddy Sheringham, Jesper Blomqvist (Jordi Cruyff 73).

Yellow Cards:

Australia: Aloisi (30), Grella (68)

Manchester United: Greening (70)

Sheringham had two late chances and missed them both.

The game was somewhat of a disappointment and so was the crowd, which was expected to peak at some 90,000.

United looked tired and the Socceroos looked unprepared but it was two moments of brilliance which settled this one.

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB



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Captain Alex Tobin had a very quiet game.

Australian Features

Former World Cup stars hit out



By John Economos

Two former Australian World Cup stars sceptically watched last Sunday's clash against Manchester United at Sydney's Olympic Stadium with mixed feelings.

Legendary ace midfielders, Ray Baartz and Ray Richards, members of Australia's only squad, to have made it to the World Cup Finals, (1974), watched in silence as United struggled to their 1-0 win over a defiant young Australian side.

Baartz, the former long range star shooting international midfielder who actually played with Manchester United between 1964 and 66, stated to ABSW: "I expected much more from United today really."

"I felt that Australia was great, especially without their Euro-based players."

"It was up to United because of just who they are, that they had to show what they could do. Especially for the very good money that Australians paid to see them."

"I had hoped that at the break the players would have been told to do much more, which they didn't really," ended a disappointed Baartz.

The tough and always very outspoken midfielder Richards, also went on the attack and didn't hold back.

But Richards was more concerned with the wisdom of Australian Soccer's officialdom.

"It is nothing but a disgrace to label this side as 'Australia'."

"This was not our national team at all. So why do we call it as such?"

"Call it something else such as 'an Australia XI' or even 'an Australian Select'."

"And another thing we still have not learnt."

"Never should our national team be pitted against any club side no matter which club it is from overseas."

"Our young boys did very well playing out from the back. But we failed a bit up front in finishing them off," ended Richards.

Our pitches are more like ditches

Horray for Stadium Australia for providing both Australia and Manchester United with a decent pitch on which to play on.

Compared to the cricket pitch conditions faced in Melbourne, Stadium Australia seemed like Wembley even though it also had it's problems.

The pitch however did give the players a chance to utilise their skills which produced a much more entertaining and exciting game for all.

The condition of the park in Sydney produced the spectacle and a close competitive competition that was lacking in the first game.

But what will the authorities now put into

place to ensure that big soccer games are played on flat, smooth pitches which allow for competitive and entertaining play.

Maybe we have to build a stadium just for soccer although that is highly unlikely.

What about stopping Rugby League and AFL for a couple of weeks? Well that's impossible.

So then the solution is simple. When there is a big event played, grounds can't be used by anyone within two weeks of the game so that the ground staff can produce a field that is capable of producing high quality soccer, something that the fans are craving for in Australia.

SHORT SHORTS FROM UNITED'S CORNER

By John Economos

Manchester United's heroic 33 year old strike goalscorer, Teddy Sheringham, made a bee-line run for Australia's mobile flanker Stan Lazaridis.

No, not to crunch him in a tackle.

It was right on fulltime last Sunday at Sydney's Olympic Stadium. And the reason why?

To swap shirts with 'Stan The Man'

What an honour!



Sheringham wanted Stan's shirt.

Australia reportedly is experiencing very low inflation, nationwide, except at Sydney's Olympic Stadium it is not.

Last Sunday, Stadium Australia food outlets were charging Soccer fans a massive \$3.50 for a humble meat pie and \$2.50 for a large biscuit.

Can you believe it?

Were these warm up prices for next year's Olympics?

The inexplicable lengthy presentations at the end of last Sunday's match irritated the vast majority of the attending Soccer fans.

From a crowd of 78,000, fewer than 5,000 lingered for the official ceremony. Maybe we should have no more on-field presentation ceremonies in future!

Manchester United was born back in 1878 in one of England's wettest Cities and since that day, the club has grown into becoming one of the biggest clubs worldwide.

The Red Devils won their first League Championship 30 years later and have never looked back.

In 1958 Busby's Babes won the English League Championship.

But disaster struck the young Manchester United squad when no less than eight players were killed in the Munich air crash whilst United's plane was taking off out of Germany.

Coach Matt Busby and the legendary England World Cup striker Bobby Charlton incredibly survived this tragedy.

Manchester United's first ever European Cup win came in 1968 when the Reds from England thrashed Portugal's very best, Benfica, 4-1 in the Final.

This was exactly 10 years after the Manchester-Munich-air disaster.

Ryan Giggs, United's incredible genius left flanker, and most proud owner of no less than 15 cars, a Ferrari (red of course) included, already has been labelled as the 'Mk II Georgie Best' of the 60s.

By the looks of it, Giggs will be working as a car salesman after his soccer days are over.

Match glossy programme for the United games against Australia was highly attractive and extremely colourful.

Not so the lofty ten bucks the already stung soccer fan had to dig deep and fork out to nail one down. Who do you think we are, Rene Rivkin?

Sir Alex Ferguson, United's current and heroic manager, arrived at Old Trafford in 1986.

Four years later the gum-chewing Scot won his first F.A. Cup for the Red Devils.

Tomorrow (Wednesday) Big Alex visits Buckingham Palace to receive his knighthood from the most gracious and none other, 'Betty', herself.



Ferguson is off to the Palace tomorrow to see 'Betty'.

Marconi Juniors Triumphant

By John Economos

Marconi's Under 11s and 12s squads last week flew to Queensland to each play three matches in what was billed as the 'Brisbane Challenge' or 'Mini State Of Origin' at Spencer Park at Brisbane's Newmarket.

Both Marconi teams returned to Sydney last Saturday having won all of their six matches.

In the process the Under 11s scored a total of eight goals and conceded none whilst the Under 12s scored 14 goals and also conceded none.



Marconi's dynamic junior coaching duo, Ricky Chiellini(l) and Jack Belardo(r).

Under 11s affable coach Ricky Chiellini, stated to ABSW: "After an extremely tiring week that involved training, travelling and playing three games, it was most pleasing that all the players rose to the occasion and we were able to win all our matches."

Meanwhile Marconi's Under 12s coach Jack Belardo, stated to ABSW: "We managed to play some really good Soccer in Brisbane and the whole week was a very good bonding experience for the lads."

"My boys showed style and very good sportsmanship in every game."

Next week ABSW will bring you full reports and pictures of Marconi's Brisbane crusade so don't miss it.



INVITATION TO TRIAL

The Wollongong Wolves invite talented and accomplished soccer players born after 1/1/81 to register as a trialist for the 1999/2000 Wolves Colts and Youth teams.

Trials will be held on the first weekend of August, 1999.

To register contact Christian Zelvis at the Wolves Office on

(02) 4226 3988

Australian Features



This week our Guest of the Week is a former Socceroo captain who has made the successful transition from a tight, sweaty green and gold jock strap to our living room TV screens. He stars each week in C7 sport's soccer show - 'Soccer Central' and as Channel 7 'Sportsworld' soccer guru every Sunday morning. Please welcome former legendary Socceroo captain and the face of Australian soccer on Channel 7 - Paul Wade



FROM CAPTAIN TO GURU

Diegos: "You've become a genuine TV star, a radio commentator of the highest repute, a soccer writer in the Stephen King 'Pet Cemetery' class, people want you to kiss their babies in the street — you've become the popular face of soccer to mainstream Australia."

"In comparison to taking a cutthroat sudden death penalty in a World cup qualifier, is there any pressure in what you do now?"

Wade: "Some thrive on pressure and I'd like to think I'm one of those people. When we do a first take on the show and the director says that it's not live but pre-recorded, I tend to always stuff it up."

"If I know that it's live and going all around Australia on C7 Sport or Channel 7 'Sportsworld', it forces me to plug the old brain in and get it into gear. I think under those circumstances we all perform better."

Diegos: "Congratulations on your Pay TV show, 'Soccer Central'. It's good to see you and attempt to present Aussie soccer in a unique light."

"It's also good to see, through the many skits you do on the show that your acting has stepped up from a C grade level to a B grade level. How is the show going and is there room for such a show on commercial TV?"

Wade: "The show is rating its sock off. There is now a satellite available that reaches the far corners of Australia and not just the main centres. So as a result there are a hell of a lot more people watching."

"I guess we have to convince the gurus at Channel 7 that the show is worth putting on free to air television. As far as the level of acting goes, the editors have already got a bloopers tape ready for this season."

"I hope it doesn't go to air because I make a right goose of myself. What you see going to air is only part of the equation."

"The show is contracted out to a firm who I'm sure, have blown their budget on tapes. I think next time they tender their quote to the station they will take into account the Paul Wade factor."

Diegos: "Whilst it's great that two former Diego guests of the week, Bruce McAvaney and yourself,

have been propelled to stardom after an appearance on our show, we'd be lying if we said that we've been happy with the amount of coverage given to the game on Channel 7."

"Go on Wade, put your job on the line. Do you think Channel 7 is doing justice to the game in this country?"

Wade: "I've told the Channel 7 powerbrokers that there are a lot of people not happy with the coverage of soccer."

"If people are jumping up and down and saying 'Hey Channel 7, We want it!', then there's a fair chance that it's going to get on."

"The boss replied by saying when the viewers get really, really angry then I'll put it on more often. I thought to myself that that's what commercial television is all about."

"If it doesn't rate then it's not going to get on. If people are jumping up and down and saying 'Hey Channel 7 — We want it!', then there's a fair chance that it's going to get on. They are only doing their job so that they can get more money out of the sponsors."

Diegos: "During the recent Socceroos V FIFA All stars extravaganza, the Diegos were fortunate enough to share a pina colada moment with Brazilian captain, Leonardo and a spicy sauerkraut moment with German legend, Jurgen Klinsman."

"Whilst we found them to be very accommodating and magnificent ambassadors for the game, we found the Aussies a little surly, disinterested and precious at times. Is this a fair comment?"

Wade: "I'd like to be able to say that 'no you've got it all wrong' but I can't. Unfortunately you've hit the nail right on the head. Now that I'm on the other side of the fence I've found it exactly the same."

"We were trying to get the Socceroos on 'Sportsworld' on the Sunday morning after the All Star game but were told that we couldn't because they would be either on a flight home or that they would be so drunk that they wouldn't be able to speak anyway."

It was the player's off-season so I suppose from that perspective, it was understandable. "During the week leading up to the game however, there was a luncheon for the Socceroos and up on stage was Mark Bosnich and Harry Kewell."

"Their answers to questions were so guarded it was boring. I know what the guy's are really like so it frustrates me when they don't relax and let the public know what they really feel about issues."

"I guess that this comes from the fact that the tabloids in the UK have slaughtered the players in the past. It's sad really because these players are really lively characters."

Diegos: "You were fortunate enough to be recognised at the opening of Stadium Australia as an all time great. Aussie sports legend."

"How did that make you feel and did you at any point feel like out doing Terence Trent D'Arby and INXS, performing your own version of Suicide Blonde?"

Wade: "To tell you the truth I was standing next to Mark Taylor and he turned to me and said 'Wadey if they ask us to do backing vocals I'm going!'."

"It was tremendous sharing the stage with the likes of Laurie Daley and Mark Taylor. I've never really seen myself as being hugely successful even though I've been the captain of the Socceroos and played over 100 times for Australia."

"But I was awe struck with these guys because in my mind they are real champions. They probably didn't know who Paul Wade was but I was standing there thinking 'Wow' I'm in front of 80,000 spectators with all these legends. I guess I was totally star struck by it all."

Diegos: "Soccer Australia this week announced the make up of the Ericsson Cup for next season."

"Parramatta Power and Auckland Kings are in, with no teams sacrificed. What's your view on the new 17 team format?"

Wade: "Unfortunately too many teams Diegos. I was a little bit nervous when David Hill originally came on board."

"We knew he was going to force changes and upset people but I think as a businessman he had the best interests of the game at heart."

"He had a goal and he was going to achieve that goal. He now has departed and progress since has been slow."

"It seems to me that slowly, slowly is not good enough even though I understand that there are many reasons why Soccer Australia had to make this decision."

The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM Saturday 10 am - 12 midday. E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com

"Unfortunately it's been going slowly, slowly ever since I've been playing in the National league. It's not good enough. Paul Trimboli can't wait forever to be a national hero."

"He should be up there with Mark Taylor but he is not."



Wadey is pushing for more soccer on seven and we are all behind you.

The reason that he is not is because soccer hasn't got the profile that it should have. I think Soccer Australia should kick more heads."

"They should kick teams out that are just not good enough. The ARL is a successful competition in NSW but are still axing teams because they are not up to scratch. If it's good enough for them then surely it should be good enough for us."

"I understand the legal implications of such a move but if you don't play well as a Socceroo, you get your backside kicked and the same should be the case for these under-performing clubs."

Diegos: "Thanks Wade. No doubt with that Winston Churchill type address a political career beckons. I think a nickname like 'Iron Bar' would suit beautifully. Adios Amigo!"

Wade: "Thanks Diegos but I wouldn't give up my C — grade acting for anything. Adios Amigos!"



Paul Wade... our former Socceroo captain has now become the Channel 7 and C7 soccer guru.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

DEMONS FIRST INTO THE FINAL

Torrential weather during the week in Sydney meant the postponement of most of the NSW Soccer Federations' matches, but one of the two Super League semi-finals did go ahead.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles and Blacktown City Demons clashed at Melita Stadium on a cold Saturday night in a repeat of last year's Grand Final, and it was the Demons who advanced straight into the Grand Final after an amazing 5-2 win.

A dominant first half performance saw the Demons go in 3-0 up at the break, with goals through Damien Brown, Damien Smith and Jon Angelucci before the half-hour mark.

The second half saw Bonnyrigg hit back, but incredibly Fernando Greco in the Blacktown goal saved two penalties in the space of a couple of minutes.

The Demons then survived the send-off of Damien Foxe, and despite Joe Bruni pulling a goal back Blacktown scored two late goals through Aaron Holst and Stuart Cleary.

Bonnyrigg: Klos, Dee, Xuereb (Green

67), Racker, Dragas, Crnokrak (Warburton 55), Richardson, Mancino, Ghiso (Harding 38), Gomez, Bruni.

Blacktown City: Greco, Lowe, D Brown, Langan, Riches (Sermanni 67), Foxe, Smith, Bradley (Holst 67), Yates, Angelucci (Salemah 88), Cleary.



In the Under 21 match Bonnyrigg Iran out 3-0 winners over Blacktown City with Milan Savic opening the scoring in the 53rd minute, followed by further goals from Danny Poljak, and substitute Daniel Borg.

In the Under 18s Blacktown beat Canterbury on penalties.

The other game scheduled between the Macarthur Rams and Parramatta Eagles was washed out, with the Under 21 and Under 18 matches between the same teams taking place at 8:15pm and 6:30pm respectively at Melita Stadium on Monday night, and the first grade fixture taking place at 7:00pm at the Gabbie Stadium on Tuesday night.

The winner of the first grade game will then play Bonnyrigg at 3:00pm on Sunday the 25th July at the Gabbie Stadium, with the winner of that playing Blacktown in the Grand Final on Sunday August 1.



The heavy rain for the past week saw most games washed out before the weekend even started — including one of the Super League semi-finals, but here are the results from today's games.

If you want to get update tables, just go to our web site at www.soccernsw.com.au then on to the Competitions page, and follow the instructions. Tables are updated and downloadable for your convenience.

Those that are not there at all mean that NO GAMES were played in that particular competition this weekend.

SUPER LEAGUE: Blacktown 5 bt Bonnyrigg 2. (goal scorers not yet confirmed)

UNDER 21: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 bt Blacktown City 0, Parramatta Eagles vs Macarthur Rams W/O.

UNDER 18: Blacktown City 1 drew Canterbury M'Ville 1 (Blacktown City 5 bt Canterbury M'Ville 3 Penalties), Parramatta Eagles vs Macarthur Rams W/O.

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE: Hurstville City vs Rockdale City Suns W/O, Manly Warringah vs St George W/O, Bathurst '75 2 (Own Goal 53m, B McLean 72m) bt Moorebank Sports 0.

UNDER 21: AC United vs Penrith Panthers W/O, Hurstville City vs Rockdale City Suns W/O, Manly Warringah vs St George W/O, Bathurst '75 2 bt Moorebank Sports 1.

UNDER 18: AC United vs Penrith Panthers W/O, Hurstville City vs Rockdale City Suns W/O, Manly Warringah vs St George W/O, Moorebank Sports 2 bt Bathurst '75 0.

DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE: Sydney District vs Sydney University W/O.

UNDER 21: University of NSW vs Arncliffe Scots W/O, Sydney District vs Sydney University W/O.

UNDER 18: Arncliffe Scots 3 bt University of NSW 0 (Forfeit), Sydney District vs Sydney University W/O.

DIVISION THREE

FIRST GRADE: Camden Tigers vs Liverpool City W/O, Hakoah 5 bt Maroubra United 1.

SECOND GRADE: Camden Tigers vs Liverpool City W/O, Hakoah 3 bt Maroubra United 1.

DIVISION FOUR

FIRST GRADE: Balmain vs Springwood W/O.

SECOND GRADE: Balmain vs Springwood W/O.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Nepean Panthers vs Sutherland Sharks W/O, NSW Inst/Academy vs Shoalhaven Association W/O.

UNDER 21: Nepean Panthers vs Sutherland Sharks W/O, NSW Inst/Academy W/O.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Manly Warringah vs Roselands W/O.

UNDER 19: Manly Warringah vs Roselands W/O.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Sydney Olympic vs Leichhardt Tigers W/O, Southern Branch vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Central Coast vs Parramatta Eagles W/O, Newcastle Breakers vs Sydney United W/O, Southern Districts vs Macarthur Rams W/O, Blacktown City vs Eastern Suburbs W/O, Manly Warringah vs Marconi Fairfield W/O, Wollongong Wolves 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 2.

UNDER 14: Sydney Olympic vs Leichhardt Tigers W/O, Southern Branch vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Central Coast vs Parramatta Eagles W/O, Newcastle Breakers vs Sydney United W/O, Southern Districts vs Macarthur Rams W/O, Blacktown City vs Eastern Suburbs W/O, Manly Warringah vs Marconi Fairfield W/O, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 1.

UNDER 15: Sydney Olympic vs Leichhardt Tigers W/O, Southern Branch vs Gladesville Hornsby W/O, Central Coast vs Parramatta Eagles W/O, Newcastle Breakers vs Sydney United W/O, Southern Districts vs Macarthur Rams W/O, Blacktown City vs Eastern Suburbs W/O, Manly Warringah vs Marconi Fairfield W/O, Wollongong Wolves 4 bt Sutherland Sharks 0.

UNDER 16: Sydney Olympic vs Leichhardt Tigers W/O, Central Coast vs Parramatta Eagles W/O, Newcastle Breakers vs Sydney United W/O, Southern Districts vs Macarthur Rams W/O, Blacktown City vs Eastern Suburbs W/O, Manly Warringah vs Marconi Fairfield W/O, Sutherland Sharks 0 drew Wollongong Wolves 0.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Canterbury M'Ville vs Fairfield Bulls W/O, Bankstown Association vs St George W/O, Illawarra Lions vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles W/O, Canterbury Association vs AC United W/O, Hills United vs Stanmore Hawks W/O, Penrith Panthers vs Rockdale City Suns W/O.

UNDER 14: Canterbury M'Ville vs Fairfield Bulls W/O, Bankstown Association vs St George W/O, Illawarra Lions vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles W/O, Canterbury Association vs AC United W/O, Hills United vs Stanmore Hawks W/O, Penrith Panthers vs Rockdale City Suns W/O.

UNDER 15: Canterbury M'Ville vs Fairfield Bulls W/O, Bankstown Association vs St George W/O, Illawarra Lions vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles W/O, Canterbury Association vs AC United W/O, Hills United vs Stanmore Hawks W/O, Penrith Panthers vs Rockdale City Suns W/O.

UNDER 16: Canterbury M'Ville vs Fairfield Bulls W/O, Bankstown Association vs St George W/O, Illawarra Lions vs Bonnyrigg White Eagles W/O, Canterbury Association vs AC United W/O, Hills United vs Stanmore Hawks W/O, Penrith Panthers vs Rockdale City Suns W/O.

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Mt Druitt Town vs Nepean Association W/O, Moorebank Sports vs Macquarie Sports W/O, Hawkesbury City vs Granville Association W/O, Mt Pritchard vs Camden Tigers W/O, Hajduk Wanderers vs CSI Schofields W/O, Kuring-Gai Association vs Parramatta City W/O.

UNDER 14: Mt Druitt Town vs Nepean Association W/O, Moorebank Sports vs Macquarie Sports W/O, Hawkesbury City vs Granville Association W/O, Mt Pritchard vs Camden Tigers W/O, Hajduk Wanderers vs CSI Schofields W/O, Kuring-Gai Association vs Parramatta City W/O.

UNDER 15: Mt Druitt Town vs Nepean Association W/O, Moorebank Sports vs Macquarie Sports W/O, Hawkesbury City vs Granville Association W/O, Mt Pritchard vs Camden Tigers W/O, Hajduk Wanderers vs CSI Schofields W/O, Kuring-Gai Association vs Parramatta City W/O.

UNDER 16: Mt Druitt Town vs Nepean Association W/O, Moorebank Sports vs Macquarie Sports W/O, Hawkesbury City vs Granville Association W/O, Mt Pritchard vs Camden Tigers W/O, Hajduk Wanderers vs CSI Schofields W/O, Kuring-Gai Association vs Parramatta City W/O.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

UNDER 11: Illawarra Lions vs AC United W/O, Hurstville City vs Stanmore Hawks W/O. **UNDER 12:** Illawarra Lions vs AC United W/O, Hurstville City vs Stanmore Hawks W/O.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

SEMI



FINALS

Tuesday July 20

FIRST GRADE

Macarthur Rams v Parramatta Eagles
Gabbie Stadium, 7.00pm

Sunday July 25

FIRST GRADE

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v
Winner Macarthur Rams or Parramatta Eagles
Gabbie Stadium, 3.00pm

U/21

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v
Loser Macarthur Rams or Parramatta Eagles
Gabbie Stadium, 12.30pm

U/18

Blacktown City Demons v
Loser Macarthur Rams or Parramatta Eagles
Gabbie Stadium, 10.30am

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NSW SOCCER FEDERATION INFORMATION SERVICE

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Soccer Woman

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

NSW CITY SNATCH JUNIORS CROWN

NSW City snatched the AWSA National Junior Championship with a late winner to record a narrow 2-1 win in the final over Northern NSW last Sunday week in Perth.

The Junior title is NSW's first since 1994, since that time having never made the final until now.

From the inaugural Junior Championships in 1982 until 1994, NSW had almost a monopoly on the championship, winning every year except twice when they finished runners-up.

NSW City comprised a total of seven players from the 1998 campaign and the young side was led by Central Coast Academy coach Sharon Dewar in what was her first State coaching appointment. Dewar also played for Australia during the late 1980s.

Losing finalists Northern NSW would be disappointed they weren't able to finish off the job after making their path through to the final with maximum points from Pool A.

Northern travelled to Perth with one of their best ever combinations, the majority of whom play together each week in the NSW WSL Reserve Grade.

Ten had also played in the 1998 championship, and the technical quality of the side was reflected in the selection of four Northern players in the All-Star Team.

Contested by a record ten teams including New Zealand and first-timers NSW Regional, the week-long championship was as competitive as ever in the race to make the semifinals from the two pools of five.

Northern and NSW City each topped their Pool and were joined by last year's finalists South Australia and Queensland for the semis.

Northern defeated defending champions SA 2-1 to book their place in the final, whilst the NSW versus Queensland encounter was decided on a penalty shootout, the score locked at 1-1 after extra-time.

The shootout was a thriller, City winning on the 9th penalty by a margin of 6-5.

The final itself was a tight contest between two long-time rivals. NSW striker Catherine Cannuli looked dangerous up front and pressured the Northern defence in the first half.

Twenty-two minutes into the 35 minute halves, 13-year-old Cannuli, later named tournament MVP, gave NSW the lead with a well-taken drive into the roof of the net.

Cannuli was forced from the field with a wrist injury early in the second half, diminishing City's strikepower.

Northern came out firing after the break although they found themselves up against a very solid NSW backline.

NNSW finally broke through with the equaliser midway through the second half, a mixup in the 6-yard box allowing Katie Gill to crack a shot past a hesitant keeper.

With two minutes remaining, NSW surged forward on the counterattack against the run of play.

Young Leah Blayney, the smallest player on the field who had come on for Cannuli, gave NSW the 2-1 victory with her decisive goal.

Blayney found herself in the right spot at the right time, an awkward cross dribbling past her to flick inside the near post.

NSW City: Tina Burns, Kathryn Collins, Emma Davidson, Jacinta Ling, Celeste Fihlebon, Laura Parker, Nicole Kimber (c), Jessica Palmer, Sandee Stephens, Catherine Cannuli, Angela Murphy, Emma Micallef, Katie Hilder, Leah Blayney, Brooke Weekes, Nikki Pichon.

Northern NSW: Harmonie Atwill, Amy Baldwin, Ainsley Caldwell, Lauren Colthorpe, Hayley Crawford, Rose Dunne, Katie Gill, Tara McMinn, Amber Neilson, Aimie Neilson, Bronwyn Nutley, Marnie Scevak, Amy Scott, Meegan Shepherd, Lorissa Stevens, Ashley Wilson.

AWSA NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

FULL RESULTS

DAY ONE - SUN 4 JULY

VIC 2 (Jackson 34, Kuralay 65) def WA 1 (De Vanna)

ACT 7 (Crocker 7, 31, Dawson 11, 28, Grant 49, Evans 63, Mills 67) def TAS 2

NSW City 1 (Cannuli 17) def NZ 0

NNSW 3 (Gill 8, 55, McMinn 20)

def NSW Regional 2 (Hoar 23, Madden 54)

DAY TWO - MON 5 JULY

SA 0 drew with VIC 0

QLD 3 (Harch 36, 59, Lusk 65) def ACT 0

NNSW 7 (Gill 4, 14, 64, Colthorpe 31, Neilson 6, Wilson 53) def TAS 0

NSW City 2 (Kimber 34, Palmer 68) def WA 0

DAY THREE - TUE 6 JULY

NZ 2 (Rangi 2, 18) drew with SA 2 (O'Shea 41, Stocco 58)

NSW Regional 1 (Reyter 55) def QLD 0

NSW City 2 (Cannuli 27, Murphy 38) def VIC 0

NNSW 3 (Gill 18, Scevak 39, Shepherd 59) def ACT 1 (Rawson 22)

DAY FOUR - WED 7 JULY

NSW Regional 2 (Churches 16, Madden 47) def TAS 0

SA 1 (Stocco 52) def NSW City 0

NNSW 2 (Dunne 11, McMinn 40) def QLD 1 (Harch 28)

NZ 4 (McGlashan 28, 63, Rangi 55, Clarke 68) def WA 0

DAY FIVE - THU 8 JULY

ACT 3 (Crocker 18, Rawson, Evans 68) def NSW Regional 2

(Cody 5, Madden 22)

NZ 3 (McGlashan 28, 58, Rangi 89) def VIC 1 (Romano 59)

QLD 5 (Harch 13, 29, Reuter 8, McCormack 24, Webb 55) def

TAS 1 (Jones 68)

SA 2 (Stocco 13, O'Shea 30) def WA 0

DAY SIX - FRI 9 JULY

9th Place Playoff - WA 6 (Beardmore 3), Paulsen 2, De Vanna

def TAS 0

7th Place Playoff - NSW Regional 3 (Bruce, Townsend, Kennedy)

def VIC 1 (Groenwald)

5th Place Playoff - NZ 3 (McGlashan 12, Keinzley 62, 70)

def ACT 0

Semifinal - NSW City 1 (Kimber) def QLD 1 (Kerr) - NSW City

won 6-5 on penalties

Semifinal - NNSW 2 (Neilson McMinn) def SA 1 (Storic)

DAY SEVEN - SAT 10 JULY

Final - NSW City 2 (Cannuli 22, Blayney 68)

def NNSW 1 (Gill 58)

POINTS LADDERS

POOL A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Northern NSW	4	4	0	0	15	4	11	12
Queensland	4	3	0	1	10	3	7	9

ACT	4	2	0	2	10	10	0	6
NSW Regional	4	1	0	3	6	7	-1	3
Tasmania	4	0	0	4	3	20	0	-17

POOL B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
NSW City	4	3	0	1	6	1	5	9
South Australia	4	2	2	0	5	2	3	8
New Zealand	4	2	1	1	9	4	5	7
Victoria	4	1	1	2	3	6	-3	4
Western Australia	4	0	0	4	1	10	-9	0

FINAL PLACINGS

- 1st NSW CITY
- 2nd NORTHERN NSW
- 3rd QUEENSLAND
- 4th SOUTH AUSTRALIA
- 5th NEW ZEALAND
- 6th ACT
- 7th NSW REGIONAL
- 8th VICTORIA
- 9th WESTERN AUSTRALIA
- 10th TASMANIA

GK
DEF

MID

FWD

AWARDS

FAIR PLAY TROPHY
TASMANIA

ASSOCIATION TROPHY
NORTHERN NSW

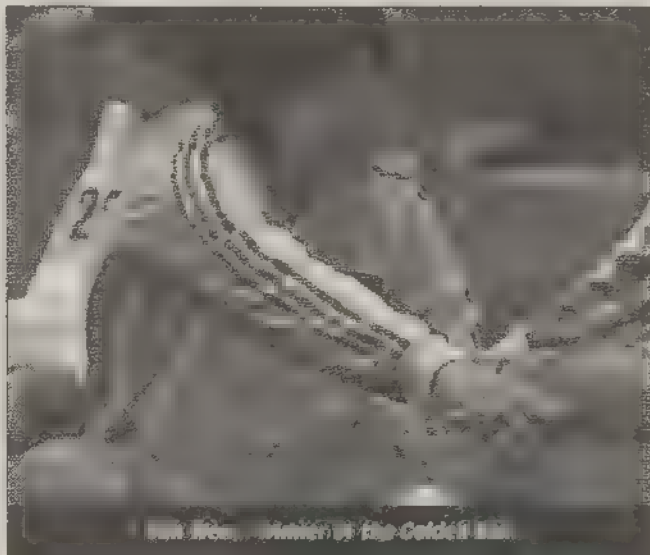
CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY
NSW CITY

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
CATHERINE CANNULI - NSW CITY

ALL-STAR TEAM

JUSTINE KING	NSW REGIONAL
BRONWYN NUTLEY	NNSW
DIANNE JANSEN	VIC
LORISSA STEVENS	NNSW
KARLA REUTER	QLD
AMBER NEILSON	NNSW
STACEY STOCO	SA
LISA DE VANNA	WA
COLETTE McCALLUM	WA
CATHERINE CANNULI	NSW CITY
KATIE GILL	NNSW

SUN WEN WIN'S GOLDEN BALL



Chinese mastermind Sun Wen has been voted winner of the Golden Ball for her outstanding performances throughout the Women's World Cup.

China's captain led by example with her technical wizardry, creating chances on goal and scoring seven for herself in the process.

The highly-coveted award was voted on by over 150 journalists on the day of the World Cup final.

Free-kick specialist Sissi of Brazil came second in the votes, with the hardworking Michelle Akers taking third place.

The three will receive their awards at the next World Player Gala to be held in Brussels next January.



VICTORIAN LEAGUES



CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 18

Springvale City 6 - Northcote City 3
Western Suburbs 0 - Lalor United 0
Doncaster Rovers 3 - North Geelong Warriors 2
Westgate 1 - Oakleigh 4
Werribee City 2 - Richmond 1
Kingston City 3 - Yarraville Glory 2
Heidelberg United v Melbourne City played on Monday night

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg United	17	11	4	2	41	22	37
Oakleigh	18	11	4	3	36	18	37
Lalor United	18	10	4	4	37	23	34
Westgate	18	10	2	6	32	26	32
Western Suburbs	18	8	4	6	29	24	28
Doncaster Rovers	18	7	5	6	35	28	26
Richmond	18	6	6	6	26	29	24
Yarraville Glory	18	6	5	7	31	31	23
Springvale City	18	6	3	9	22	28	21
Nth Geelong Warriors	18	4	8	6	26	27	20
Kingston City	18	5	3	10	21	39	18
Northcote City	18	5	2	11	36	43	17
Melbourne City	17	5	2	10	25	37	17
Werribee City	18	3	4	11	19	41	13

ROUND 19 FIXTURES

Saturday July 24
Yarraville Glory v Werribee City
Sunday July 25
Richmond v Westgate
Oakleigh v Doncaster Rovers
Northcote City v Kingston City
North Geelong Warriors v Western Suburbs
Lalor United v Heidelberg United
Melbourne City v Springvale City

DIVISION 2 - ROUND 18

Satellite City Rovers 0 - East Richmond 0
Croydon City Arrows 1 - Essendon 2
Geelong 3 - Frankston Pines 2
Frankston Strikers 4 - Thomastown/Regent 0
Altona City 0 - Knox City 3
Diamond Valley United 0 - Ringwood City 2
Old Scotch Waverley 3 - Cranbourne Comets 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	18	12	6	0	48	12	42
Frankston Pines	17	10	5	2	44	21	35
Geelong	18	9	5	4	34	32	32
Knox City	18	8	4	6	27	19	28
East Richmond	18	7	6	5	25	25	27
Old Scotch Waverley	17	7	5	5	18	21	26
Cranbourne Comets	18	6	6	6	31	28	24
Altona City	18	7	3	8	17	29	24
Frankston Strikers	18	6	4	8	32	27	22
Ringwood City	18	5	5	8	23	34	20
Satellite City Rovers	18	5	5	8	18	29	20
Thomastown/Regent	18	4	4	10	28	37	16
Diamond Valley United	18	3	5	10	18	35	14
Croydon City Arrows	18	2	5	11	18	32	11

ROUND 19 FIXTURES

Saturday July 24
Cranbourne Comets v Diamond Valley United
Ringwood City v Altona City
Knox City v Frankston Strikers
East Richmond v Old Scotch Waverley
Thomastown/Regent v Geelong
Frankston Pines v Croydon City Arrows
Essendon v Satellite City Rovers

DIVISION 3 - ROUND 18

Laverton Park 4 - Banyule City 2
Stonnington City 3 - North Coburg United 1
Moreland City 1 - Mooroolbark 0
South Springvale 3 - Bell Park 1
Williamstown 1 - Broadmeadows City 1
South Wantirna 0 - Fitzroy City 0
Pascoe Vale 1 - Keilor Park 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	18	12	4	2	44	23	40
South Springvale	18	9	8	1	34	12	35

South Wantirna	18	10	4	4	33	16	34
Fitzroy City	18	9	7	2	37	21	34
North Coburg United	18	10	3	5	34	26	33
Laverton Park	18	7	7	4	31	24	28
Moreland City	18	8	4	6	31	24	28
Pascoe Vale	18	6	3	9	28	37	21
Williamstown	18	5	5	8	29	36	20
Keilor Park	18	6	1	11	22	31	19
Mooroolbark	18	5	4	9	18	32	19
Bell Park	18	3	6	9	22	38	15
Broadmeadows City	17	3	3	11	21	37	12
Banyule City	17	0	5	12	15	42	5

ROUND 19 FIXTURES

Saturday July 24
Keilor Park v South Wantirna
Fitzroy City v Williamstown
Broadmeadows City v South Springvale
Banyule City v Pascoe Vale
Bell Park v Moreland City
Mooroolbark v Stonnington City
North Coburg United v Laverton Park

DIVISION 4 - ROUND 18

Sunbury United 1 - Croxton Park 1
Clifton Hill United 2 - Chelsea 5
Lyndale United 0 - Langwarrin 2
Seaford United 2 - Geelong Rangers 1
Sandringham City 3 - Keysborough 1
Nunawading City 2 - Corio 4
Lalor 3 - Melton 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	18	16	1	1	63	16	49
Sandringham City	18	12	2	4	58	32	38
Seaford United	18	10	3	5	39	32	33
Lyndale United	17	9	4	4	36	25	31
Croxton Park	18	6	10	2	36	26	28
Melton	18	8	4	6	30	27	28
Sunbury United	18	7	3	8	32	31	24
Geelong Rangers	18	6	4	8	27	36	22
Corio	18	5	4	9	25	41	19
Chelsea	18	4	5	9	26	43	17
Clifton Hill United	18	5	2	11	27	47	17
Keysborough	18	4	4	10	34	34	16
Lalor	17	4	4	9	26	39	16
Nunawading City	18	3	2	13	21	51	11

ROUND 19 FIXTURES

Saturday July 24
Melton v Nunawading City
Corio v Sandringham City
Keysborough v Seaford United
Croxton Park v Lalor
Geelong Rangers v Lyndale United
Langwarrin v Clifton Hill United
Chelsea v Sunbury United

WOMEN'S LEAGUES

PREMIER DIVISION - ROUND 13

Heidelberg United v South Melbourne - no result received
Manningham 5 - Westvale 1
Keilor Park v Endeavour United - no result received
Cranbourne A - bye
Essendon A - bye
Table: - Cranbourne A 27, Manningham 24, Keilor Park 19, Westvale 14, Essendon A 11, South Melbourne 10, Heidelberg United 0, Endeavour United 0.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES

Sunday July 25
Cranbourne A v Essendon A
Endeavour United v Manningham
Westvale v Heidelberg United
Keilor Park - bye
South Melbourne - bye

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 13

Seaford United 0 - Yarraville Glory 3
Newborough/Yallourn 4 - Waverley Taipans 1
Endeavour Hills 3 - Ballarat Strikers 0
Cranbourne B - bye
Knox County - bye
Table: - Cranbourne B 28, Newborough/Yallourn 19, Yarraville Glory 17, Knox County 14, Endeavour Hills 12, Seaford United 11, Waverley Taipans 7, Ballarat Strikers 3.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES

Sunday July 25
Cranbourne B v Endeavour Hills
Ballarat Strikers v Knox County
Waverley Taipans v Seaford United
Newborough/Yallourn - bye
Yarraville Glory - bye

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 13

Laverton Park v Eltham North - no result received
Calder Strikers 3 - Mill Park 0
Brunswick City v Thornbury United - no result received
Fairfield Falcons A v Ballarat City - no result received
Essendon B v Brimbank - no result received
Table: - Ballarat City 29, Laverton Park 27, Brimbank 24, Eltham North 23, Brunswick City 22, Calder Strikers 20, Fairfield Falcons A 14, Essendon B 9, Mill Park 7, Thornbury United 0.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES

Sunday July 25
Brunswick City v Essendon B
Brimbank v Fairfield Falcons A
Ballarat City v Calder Strikers
Mill Park v Laverton Park
Thornbury United v Eltham North

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 13

Springvale City 3 - Gippsland Falcons 0
Monbulk 0 - Bentleigh Greens 7
Monash University v Carrington - no result received
South Wantirna - bye
Frankston Pines - bye
Table: - Bentleigh Greens 30, Springvale City 20, Carrington 19, Gippsland Falcons 18, Monash University 9, South Wantirna 8, Monbulk 7, Frankston Pines 0.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES

Sunday July 25
Carrington v Monbulk
Bentleigh Greens v South Wantirna
Frankston Pines v Gippsland Falcons
Monash University - bye
Springvale City - bye

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 13

La Trobe University 1 - North Reservoir 2
Melton 4 - Fairfield Falcons B 1
Deakin University v Diamond Valley United - no result received
Melbourne Raiders v Pascoe Vale - no result received
Maribyrnong United - bye
Table: - North Reservoir 33, Melton 28, Melbourne Raiders 21, Fairfield Falcons B 16, Pascoe Vale 15, La Trobe University 14, Deakin University 9, Diamond Valley United 5, Maribyrnong United 2.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES

Sunday July 25
Deakin University v Maribyrnong United
Pascoe Vale v Melton
La Trobe University v Fairfield Falcons B
Diamond Valley United v North Reservoir
Melbourne Raiders - bye

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 9

NO RESULTS OR TABLE RECEIVED

ROUND 10 FIXTURES

Sunday July 25
East Bentleigh v Crystal United
Box Hill Inter v Melbourne University
Monash Gryphon v Sandringham City
Hampton Park - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 14

Dandenong 2 - Templestowe Eagles 2
Brunswick City 1 - North Sunshine Eagles 0
Endeavour United 2 - Monbulk 1
Morwell Pegasus 3 - Springvale Condors 1
South Caulfield 2 - Mitcham United 2
Riversdale 1 - Sydenham Park 2
Table: - Endeavour United 37, Morwell Pegasus 32, Brunswick City 31, Sydenham Park 26, Riversdale 23, Mitcham United 21, Templestowe Eagles 13, North Sunshine Eagles 13, Monbulk 12, Dandenong 9, South Caulfield 9, Springvale Condors 6.

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 15

Sydenham Park 5 - South Caulfield 2
Mitcham United 2 - Morwell Pegasus 3
Springvale Condors 0 - Endeavour United 7
Templestowe Eagles 0 - Riversdale 0
Monbulk 1 - Brunswick City 1
North Sunshine Eagles 1 - Dandenong 0
Table: - Endeavour United 40, Morwell Pegasus 35, Brunswick City 32, Sydenham Park 29, Riversdale 24, Mitcham United 21, North Sunshine Eagles 16,

Templestowe Eagles 14, Monbulk 13, Dandenong 9, South Caulfield 9, Springvale Condors 6.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday July 24
Templestowe Eagles v North Sunshine Eagles
Dandenong v Monbulk
Brunswick City v Springvale Condors
Endeavour United v Mitcham United
Morwell Pegasus v Sydenham Park
Riversdale v South Caulfield

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 14

Mill Park 2 - Glenroy 3
University of Melbourne 3 - Broadmeadows United 0
Keon Park 1 - Hoppers Crossing 3
Elwood City 1 - Melbourne University 0
South Yarra 0 - Somerton City 3
Meadow Park 0 - Ballarat 3
Table: - Hoppers Crossing 34, Glenroy 34, Elwood City 29, Somerton City 27, University of Melbourne 26, Ballarat 22, Mill Park 18, Broadmeadows United 18, Melbourne University 16, South Yarra 9, Keon Park 9, Meadow Park 7.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday July 24
Elwood City v Meadow Park
Ballarat v South Yarra
Somerton City v Keon Park
Hoppers Crossing v University of Melbourne
Broadmeadows United v Mill Park
Melbourne University v Glenroy

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 14

Waverley Wanderers 5 - Monash University 3
Dingley City 0 - Doveton 6
Braeside United 4 - Noble Park 1
Brandon Park 2 - Ashburton 2
Heatherton United 2 - Dandenong Inter 1
Newborough/Yallourn 2 - Clayton 2
Table: - Waverley Wanderers 35, Clayton 34, Doveton 32, Heatherton United 23, Dingley City 23, Newborough/Yallourn 20, Brandon Park 20, Ashburton 15, Braeside United 15, Monash University 14, Dandenong Inter 12, Noble Park 11.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday July 24
Brandon Park v Newborough/Yallourn
Clayton v Heatherton United
Dandenong Inter v Braeside United
Noble Park v Dingley City
Doveton v Waverley Wanderers
Ashburton v Monash University

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 15

Darebin United 3 - Brimbank 1
North Glenroy 0 - Watsonia Heights 0
Keilor United 5 - West Preston 2
Northern United 0 - North Reservoir 4
La Trobe University 0 - Whittlesea United 2
Brimbank City 0 - Flemington Falcons 1
Table: - Whittlesea United 39, North Glenroy 31, Darebin United 27, Keilor United 24, Brimbank 24, Brimbank City 20, La Trobe University 19, Flemington Falcons 18, North Reservoir 17, Northern United 14, Watsonia Heights 13, West Preston 9.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday July 25
Northern United v Brimbank City
Flemington Falcons v La Trobe University
Whittlesea United v Keilor United
West Preston v North Glenroy
Watsonia Heights v Darebin United
North Reservoir v Brimbank

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 15

Parkmore 1 - North Caulfield 1
Old Camberwell Grammar 1 - Collingwood City 0
Thornbury United 2 - Rowville Eagles 2
Ivanhoe United 1 - Moreland United 2
Noble Park United 6 - Newport United 0
Endeavour Hills 5 - Beaumaris 2
Table: - Noble Park United 33, Moreland United 32, North Caulfield 29, Endeavour Hills 27, Collingwood City 23, Ivanhoe United 20, Rowville Eagles 19, Thornbury United 19, Old Camberwell Grammar 17, Beaumaris 11, Parkmore 9, Newport United 7.

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Sunday July 25
Ivanhoe United v Endeavour Hills
Beaumaris v Noble Park United
Newport United v Thornbury United
Rowville Eagles v Old Camberwell Grammar
Collingwood City v Parkmore
Moreland United v North Caulfield

eat well  live well

PREMIER LEAGUE



MAGIC AND ALBIANS PLAY OUT A THRILLER

ALTONA MAGIC 1 ST ALBANS 1

By Ivan Perkov

Both of these side have seen better days, but this did not stop Altona Magic and St Albans Saints playing a match which merited top five status.

At the final whistle the points were shared, but the 1-1 draw, seen by a loyal crowd, underlined that the Saints and the Magic have a good chance of playing in the Premier League next season.

On a flat, dry pitch, Altona attacked from the first minute, but the Saints soaked up this pressure and, as early as the fifth minute began to dominate.

It was in the 7th minute when Krunoslav Razov released Harry Karl with a beautiful ball, Karl ran on to face Darren McGrath but the Altona custodian was too smart.

A goal was on the cards and in the 14th minute, it duly arrived.

Ivan Razov snuck into the opposing penalty area to score. Karl received a through ball and proceeded to turn his marker then lay the ball off for Razov to easily beat McGrath.

There-on-in, Altona pushed forward looking for the equaliser and almost had one in the 19th minute when Toni Trifunov's header came back off the crossbar.

This constant attacking left gaps in defence which the St Albans players should have exploited, thankfully for the Magic, they didn't.

The second half was only two minutes old when John Sapazovski tricked his marker and ran on to a perfect through ball from Trifunov. With a suspicion of offside, Sapazovski neatly beat Marijan Vunderl.

St Albans had dominated the first 45 and seemed to fall asleep, Altona then exploited this lapse in concentration to control the midfield in the second half. Either side could have stolen all three points, but in the end a draw was the fair result.

Magic: McGrath, Velkovski, Tasevski, Ristevski, Micevski, T.Markovski, Vasilevski, Trajceovski (Madarovski), Trifunov, Sapazovski (Cergovski), Petrevski.

Saints: Vunderl, J.Cuze, Raspudic, Karl, S.Rados (I.Rados), Mikulic, Stanidis (Dragicevic), Vojtek, Saric, I.Razov, K.Razov (Movic).

Referee: Mario Gurni

Votes: 3- Mikulic (stA), 2- I.Razov (StA), 1- Sapazovski (AM).

PORT MELBOURNE 3 ALTONA EAST 0

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Port Melbourne Sharks kept their slim hopes of winning the championship alive with a 3-0 win over Altona East Phoenix on Sunday.

The Sharks, who not long ago had a five point lead at the top of the table, have slipped up in recent weeks to be five points behind Green Gully before Sunday's game.

Though the margin was comfortable enough, the Sharks performance was laboured, typical of their results in the last few rounds.

Peter Kakos chimed in with his 19th goal of the season after just five minutes, steering the ball under the body of Phoenix keeper Sam Frangos from a corner.

The Phoenix, still in contention for one of the relegation places, hit back almost immediately.



George Angelos had a header cleared off the line and from the rebound, Steven Bartol's shot was smartly saved by Jamie Cooper.

George Tzirtis came close and John-Paul Knezevic had a goal ruled out just before half time.

Neither side looked capable of finding the net, save for Frangos' fingertip save from Jimmy Latinopoulos' free kick.

It took another free kick, one played with a lot more variety, to bring Altona East undone again in the 67th minute.

Knezevic ran over the ball and then past the wall to where Kakos took the kick and passed to Knezevic who was free to pick his spot.

Five minutes later the Sharks made the game safe with a third goal.

Youngster Stavros Dimas registered his first goal of the season, after running through most of the Phoenix defence and then finding the perfect finish to beat Frangos.

Sharks: Cooper, Knezevic, Latinopoulos, Pak, Tzirtis, Tsaltas, Caimakamis, Kakos, Heath (Tzafiris), Dimas (Costoglou), Pappas.

Phoenix: Frangos, R.Antonaidis, Kapulica, De Amicis, Schwal, Dimitrelos, T.Antonaidis (F.Catalano), Davis (L.Catalano), Bartol, Papadopoulos, Angelos (Petrovski).

Referee: Dominic Barba

Votes: 3- Knezevic (PM), 2- Tzirtis (PM), 1- Heath (PM).

SUNSHINE 4 MELBOURNE RAIDERS 2

By Bert van Bedal

Melbourne Raiders made themselves as good as safe from relegation with a 4-2 win at Sunshine Georgies on Sunday.

The Georgies though, must win every remaining game this season but will still probably go down.

They fell behind after just eight minutes when Franc Bot gave away a penalty for a foul on Lirim Salievski.

Raiders leading scorer Nick Cuculeski slotted the ball into the right hand corner just past the dive of Georgies' keeper Steve Wardle.

The Raiders added a second in the 29th minute. Mohamed El Kersh had robbed Louie Rozanitis and skipped through the defence before beating Wardle with a curling shot.

El Kersh had another two chances before he scored his second for the afternoon a minute into stoppage time at the end of the first half.

Marc Elvin gave the Georgies some slight hope when he converted a pass from Georgies substitute Rai Monitto early in the second half.

Five minutes from full time the Raiders made the game safe with a fourth goal.

George Jolevski found Tony Lingurovski out wide and his cross was put into his own net by Rozanitis.

Sunshine never gave up though, and scored again in the 88th minute when Alfonso Opazo headed in an Elvin cross.

Georgies: Wardle, Krajacic, Bot (Monitto), Rozanitis, Schiafone, Debono, Kanessouhs (Olguin), Elvin, Recchia, Opazo, Stojanovski.

Raiders: Raponi, Jolevski, Anastasiou, Lingurovski, Boschini, Gasparini, Karamitanis, El Kersh, Nedanovski, Cuculeski, Salievski (Cuteri).

Referee: Hakan Anaz

Votes: 3- El Kersh (MR), 2- Opazo (SG), 1- Jolevski (MR).

GULLY SLIPS UP

SPRINGVALE WE 0 GREEN GULLY 0

By Milan Ninovic

Green Gully Cavaliers missed the chance to extend their lead at the top of the Premier League table when they were held to a goalless draw against Springvale White Eagles on Sunday.

Gully, five points clear before the game, let slip a golden opportunity. But Springvale will welcome the point as they battle against relegation.

Right from the outset it looked as though both sides would have settled for a point.

The White Eagles were marginally the better side in the first half but failed to create any clear-cut chances to threaten the Cavaliers' keeper Chris Vella.

The second half was a bit more even, but it wasn't until the 86th minute before the best chance of the match came.

Cavaliers substitute Nick Papadopoulos was unfortunate to see his header bounce off one post and then on to the other before it was cleared by Springvale defender William Armour.

Springvale's next game is away to Fawkner whilst Green Gully host their doomed bitter rivals, Sunshine Georgies.

White Eagles: Kalamaris, Milnar, Oter, Armour, Mandic, M.Mihajlovic, Nikolic (Rikanovic), Gacovski, Z.Mihajlovic, Styczen, Poutakidis.

Cavaliers: Vella, Sevin, Azzopardi, Douglas, Markovski, Vassallo (Papadopoulos), Georgiadis, Svigos, Atanasovski (Mangos), Necesi (Genovesi), Donev.

Referee: Carlo Graser

Votes: 3- Milnar (SWE), 2- Azzopardi (GG), 1- Markovski (GG).

PRESTON 3 SOUTH DANDENONG 1

By George Koukeris

Preston Lions bounced back after their shock loss to Altona East last week, beating South Dandenong 3-1 on Sunday.

Having won the toss, South Dandenong elected to face a strong northerly wind but after a scoreless first half an hour, their bravery paid off.

Artur Kirichian picked the ball in midfield before beating two Preston defenders to find Valiant Mucaj who had the finish to match the work from Kirichian to give his team a surprise lead.

In the second half, the Lions came out on a mission. With so much at stake, a loss would be unacceptable.

They equalised in the 49th minute. Warren Spink and Tony Ugunovski combined for a classic one-two to rip the South Dandy defence to shreds with Ugunovski applying the finishing touch to the move.

Fifteen minutes later, the Lions were on target again. This time Ugunovski returned the favour to his partner Spink to beat Chris Roche with a slick header.

Preston sealed the points with a third goal in the 74th minute. Substitute Tony Talevski was on hand to pounce on a rebound after Roche had saved from Chris Emsovski.

Lions: Acevski, Slaveski, Kovacic, Ognenovski, Kozic, Ugunovski, Spink, Emsovski, Stojcevski (Sterjovski), Filipovski (Dimeski), Graham (Talevski).

South: Roche, Gupinar, Lumanovski, Wright, Kirichian, V.Memeti, Pelja (Moodie), Mucaj, Van Egmond, M.Memeti (Runje), Mezensof.

Referee: Jim Ouhars

Votes: 3- Kozic (PL), 2- Spink (PL), 1- Ugunovski (PL).

eat well  live well

ROUND 22

Westvale 2 (Markovski, Bergam) - Melbourne Raiders 3 (Jolevski, Lingurovski, Salievski)
Bulleen Inter Kings 1 (Orbac) - Green Gully Cavaliers 2 (Genovesi, Vassallo)
Green Gully Cavaliers 5 (Necesi 2, Vassallo, Markovski, Azzopardi) - Westvale 1 (Markovski)
Melbourne Raiders 3 (Nedanovski, Boschini, El Kersh) - Springvale White Eagles 1 (Gacovski)

ROUND 23

Altona Magic 1 (Sapazovski) - St Albans Saints 1 (I.Razov) Preston Lions (Ugunovski, Spink, Talevski) - South Dandenong (Mucaj) Sunshine Georgies 2 (Elvin, Opazo) - Melbourne Raiders 4 (Cuculeski, El Kersh 2, own goal) Springvale White Eagles 0 - Green Gully Cavaliers 0 Port Melbourne Sharks 5 (Kakos, Knezevic, Dimas) - Altona East Phoenix 0
Westvale v Fawkner and Bulleen v Bentleigh played Monday night

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	23	14	7	2	48	20	49
Port Melbourne Sharks	23	14	4	5	52	28	46
Preston Lions	23	14	2	7	45	32	44
Bentleigh Greens	22	11	5	6	53	27	38
Fawkner Blues	22	10	4	8	34	29	34
Melbourne Raiders	23	9	5	9	33	41	32
Bulleen Inter Kings	22	8	6	8	30	28	30
St Albans Saints	23	9	3	11	35	34	30
Altona Magic	23	8	5	10	32	42	29
Altona East Phoenix	23	7	6	10	26	34	27
Springvale White Eagles	23	7	5	11	33	36	26
South Dandenong	23	6	6	11	40	52	24
Westvale	22	4	7	11	30	56	19
Sunshine Georgies	23	4	3	16	24	56	15

ROUND 24 FIXTURES

Saturday July 31

South Dandenong v St Albans Saints - kick off 3pm at George Andrews Reserve

Sunday August 1

Preston Lions v Port Melbourne Sharks - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium

Altona East Phoenix v Bulleen Inter Kings - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park

Bentleigh Greens v Westvale - kick off 3pm at Kingslon Heath Reserve

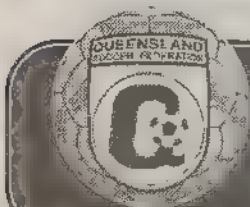
Fawkner Blues v Springvale White Eagles - kick off 3pm at Smith Reserve

Monday August 2

Green Gully Cavaliers v Sunshine Georgies - kick off 8.15pm at Green Gully Reserve

Melbourne Raiders v Altona Magic - kick off 8.15pm at Epping Soccer Stadium





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Playing in his 21st season for the same club is a marvellous achievement and for 27 year old Mark Battistin, it won't be his last.

Born in 1971, Battistin first started playing for Brisbane City soccer club at the age of four under the watchful eye of coach Ray Ianes.

Primarily a striker for his junior football at City, it wasn't until 1991 that Battistin moved from club and trained with national league team Brisbane United.

"I trained with United all season but never got a run," Battistin said.

"But so did half of Brisbane in those days."

The next season he was signed to a 12 month contract with United and was used by coach Miron Bleiberg in the midfield.

PREMIER FOOTBALL

He played 14 games and scored three goals but sadly it was the last year that Brisbane United existed.

At the end of that national league season, Battistin went back to Brisbane City who were then playing in the second division. The subsequent year, City did not get the promotion they had hoped for so it was a major heartfelt decision for Battistin to leave the club and play for North Star who were in the top league.

As fate would have it, North Star took out the premiership as well as the championship in 1994, with Battistin contributing some 10 goals. It was also the year that Queensland coach, Juan Cutillas called on the 192cm striker/midfielder.

Battistin earned his first two state caps when he played in a two game series against New South Wales. Although the Blues won the first round 3-1, it was Battistin who scored coming off the bench. Queensland took retribution in game two winning 2-1, both goals courtesy of Battistin.

Brisbane City made it back into the top league in 1995 and were happy to welcome home one of their favourite sons. Sixteen goals later, Battistin was again part of a team that took out the premiership/championship double.

At the end of the season, Brisbane Strikers coach Bruce Stowell invited Battistin to train with the newly formed national league club.

Signing a one year contract with them, the striker/midfielder found himself as a stopper. It was also the year that Frank Farina returned to Australia joining the Strikers.

Even moving Battistin away from the goalmouth didn't stop him scoring as he managed three goals from the backline position.

A two year contract followed that first season at the club but many years of running the paddock had damaged Battistin's right ankle and six weeks out from that historic grand final, Battistin went under the surgeon's knife for an ankle reconstruction.

Nine months after the surgery, he was again on the operating table for an arthroscopy to the same ankle thus keeping him off the park for some time.

With things starting to go in the right direction, a hernia in the stomach sent Battistin for a six and virtually ruined another season for him.

However, this season has proved to be the best for some years. Not only is the ball going into the back of the net again, he is captaining the side and on September 6, he and fiancée Giuliana Serafin will tie the knot.

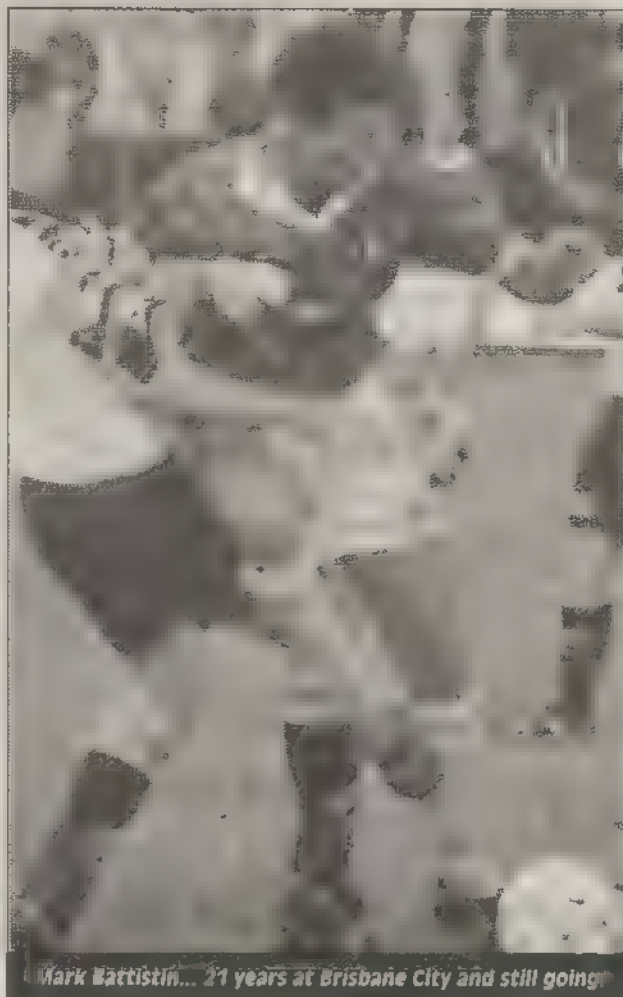
It should turn into a week of celebrations as it is hoped that several close relations will travel from Vicenza, Italy for not only the wedding but for Giuliana's birthday on September 5 and Battistin's on September 4.

As to his football aspirations for himself, Battistin remembers his national league days fondly.

"I would like to play for the Strikers again," Battistin said.

"It was the best period of my career, I loved every minute of it and I want to

BATTIGOL DOING IT FOR CITY



Mark Battistin... 21 years at Brisbane City and still going

do it again.

"I am hoping for a strong personal premier league season to show not only to myself but to others that I am more than capable," he concluded.

What is going on at Brisbane City? That was the question on everyone's lips after last year's premiers dropped out of the premier league top four following their 2-nil defeat by Taringa Rovers at Jack Spear Park on Sunday.

Taringa's victory enabled them to move back into the top four into third place ahead of Brisbane Lions on goal average and with a game in hand against Ipswich Knights.

Lions maintained their place in fourth spot after a nil-all draw with leaders Rochdale Rovers on Friday.

But the major talking point in local football has been the sudden demise of the Bobby Hamilton led Brisbane City.

Brisbane City fielded a team that hardly resembled last year's premiership side although Taringa also was well below full strength with three key players missing through injury and suspension.

Gone from last year's Brisbane City line-up in recent weeks was skipper Shane Haddow, who departed to The Gap with teammate Scott Elliott, goal-keeper Danny Duke is still injured while defender Damon Voss needs a knee reconstruction.

To make matters worse for Hamilton, the City side was minus regular midfielder Wayne Strange with the 'flu, defender Warren Cooley had work commitments and talented midfielder Damien Waugh is believed to be in a dispute with Hamilton.

Waugh sat on the bench in City's 2-nil loss to Ipswich last week and wasn't in the squad against Taringa.

Taringa, who were missing striker Des Hughes and midfielder Shaun Molenda (suspension) and Jamie Lowndes (injury), looked far and away the better side but missed a conservative six chances before running up two late goals.

Young midfielder Scott Robertson broke the deadlock in a hard fought arm wrestle midway through the second half when he struck a powerful left foot shot home at the far post from a corner.

Taringa only added their second in time on when striker Andrew Packer ran at the tired City defence, drew keeper Adam Serafin before slotting slot home.

The scoreline flattered City with Taringa failing to put away several golden opportunities.

The highlight of the match was midfielder Richard Hilli's 25th minute overhead scissors kick from near the edge of the box, which thundered onto the crossbar.

Hilli also missed another sitter in the 65th minute heading over the crossbar from virtually underneath it.

Hilli wasn't the only player at fault in front of goals with Craig Slaughter bombing two chances while striker Ben Wood also had two easy chances to take some of the undue pressure off the home side.

Despite the worrying missed opportunities coach John Ogden believes team spirit can carry Taringa through the finals.

"We've got plenty of team spirit and there's a lot of competition for places now with these three players due back next week," Ogden said.

"I said it last week we're still a chance for the premiership so long as we keep playing well and I haven't changed my opinion."

However, Ogden's main concern could be the approaching national league season with several of his players being targeted by the Brisbane Strikers and interstate.

"Des Hughes and Andrew Packer go to Carlton this week for trials but will be back in time for our next game," he said.

"It's a credit to the club if we keep producing players for the national league."

"As well, the Strikers are looking at Chris Day, Shaun Molenda and Steve Dawe."

In others matches bottom placed Mt Gravatt caused a minor upset when they held the league's form side Gold Coast to a 2-all draw, Toowoomba did the same holding Ipswich to a 1-all draw while Bundaberg and Wynnum also drew 1-all.

ROUND 22

24-07	B'berg Waves	v	Taringa Rovers	7.00pm
25-07	Brisbane City	v	Toowoomba Utd	2.45pm
25-07	Ipswich Knights	v	Mt Gravatt	2.45pm
25-07	Gold Coast	v	Rochdale Rov	2.45pm
25-07	Brisbane Lions	v	Wynnum	4.00pm

QUEENSLAND RESULTS & TABLES

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rochdale Rov	21	14	1	6	49	30	19	43
Gold Coast	21	10	8	3	41	29	12	38
Taringa Rovers	20	10	4	6	37	21	16	34
Brisbane Lions	21	10	4	7	40	32	8	34
Brisbane City	21	10	3	8	37	28	9	33
Ipswich Knights	20	9	5	6	29	23	6	32
Bundaberg Waves	21	6	5	10	32	35	-3	23
Wynnum	21	5	3	13	30	48	-18	18
Toowoomba Utd	21	4	6	11	20	43	-23	18
Mt Gravatt	21	4	5	12	30	56	-26	17

ROUND 21 SCORES

Taringa Rovers	.....2	Brisbane City	.....0
Mt Gravatt	.....2	Gold Coast	.....2
Toowoomba Utd	.....1	Ipswich Knights	.....1
Wynnum	.....1	B'berg Waves	.....1
Rochdale Rov	.....0	Brisbane Lions	.....0

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
North Star	18	12	2	4	47	22	25	38
Pine Rivers Utd	19	11	3	5	35	18	17	36
Albany Creek	18	10	5	3	40	25	15	35
Eastern Subs	17	9	5	3	37	24	13	32
Newmarket	18	7	5	6	38	29	1	26
Uni of Qld	19	8	2	9	35	37	-2	26
The Gap	18	5	2	11	31	49	-18	17
Orange Thistle	18	3	5	10	18	43	-25	14
Mitchelton	19	1	3	15	16	42	-26	6

ROUND 21 SCORES

Albany Creek	.....2	Uni of Qld	.....1
Pine Rivers Utd	.....3	Mitchelton	.....0
Newmarket	.....3	The Gap	.....3
Orange Thistle	.....0	North Star	.....3
Eastern Subs - Bye			

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rocklea Utd	19	13	3	3	57	26	31	42
Capalaba	19	13	1	5	34	20	14	40
Souths Utd	17	10	3	4	43	20	23	33
Slacks Creek	19	8	5	6	43	41	2	29
Inala City	18	7	2	9	29	45	-16	23
Beenleigh	18	6	4	8	34	38	-4	22
Redlands Utd	19	6	3	10	26	40	-14	21
Olympic Utd	18	6	0	12	30	38	-8	18
Acacia Ridge	19	2	3	14	18	46	-28	9

ROUND 21 SCORES

Redlands Utd	.....0	Rocklea Utd	.....2
Inala City0	Acacia Ridge2
Beenleigh1	Capalaba2
Slacks Creek1	Souths Utd2
Olympic Utd - Bye			



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By Graham Cooke

SOCCER CANBERRA ACTS ON 'INCIDENTS'

Soccer Canberra is to introduce a code of conduct, covering players, coaches, officials and referees in the wake of a number of incidents at senior games this season.

President Steve Doszpot said the code received the unanimous endorsement at a meeting attended by all but one Premier League club.

In the meantime an interim code will come into effect immediately.

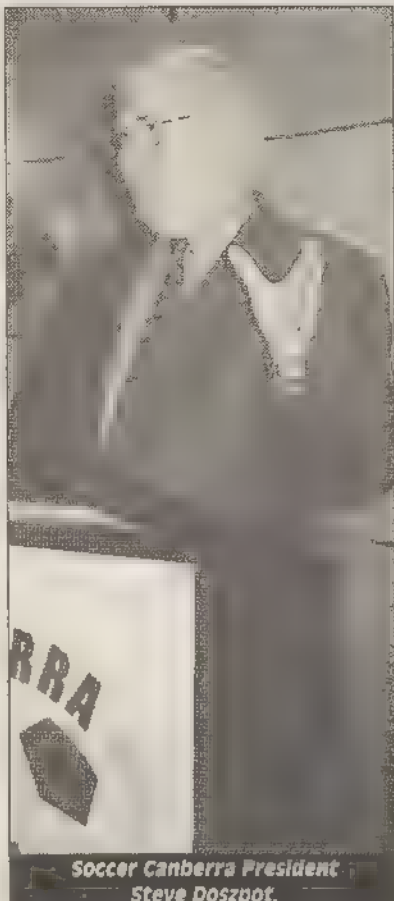
There have been several incidents at Premier League matches this season, at least two involving scuffles between players after the final whistle.

One, at a match between Monaro and Gungahlin Juventus, received wide publicity in the Canberra media.

This week Doszpot said Soccer Canberra had no desire to try and sweep the problem under the carpet. "However, in case of the Monaro and Juventus game, there were just three players involved, and they have been dealt with."

The interim code is essentially a plea for soccer people to show "common courtesy" in their dealings with opponents and match officials, Doszpot said. The final code will spell out responsibilities in greater detail.

"We have been a victim of our own success



Soccer Canberra President Steve Doszpot.

— soccer participation is booming in Canberra, with a 14 per cent increase in teams this season," he said.

"The restructuring of our reserve grade into an under-23 competition has led to a significant reduction in the number of drop-outs among people in their late teens.

"However, this has coincided with a number of retirements and departures from the referees' association, which means that on occasions somewhat inexperienced officials have been called on to take charge of important games.

"We are looking at ways of encouraging more referees into the game, but one source — players who are nearing the end of their careers — has dried up because they are continuing to play in our very successful masters division."

UNIVERSITY 'SPOILERS'

University of Canberra aims to play the spoiler in the Premier League finals race, and pick up as many points from the teams above them as possible during the rest of the season, coach Rod Lynes says.

"All our remaining seven games are with teams above us in the table, and we plan to do a bit of damage," he said.

This follows the achievement of the University's initial goal this season — to steer itself clear of bottom place.

That is where the club finished last year, and it was only the demise of Canberra City which saved it from relegation.

"I think that was a wake-up call for everyone at the University," said Lynes,

who took over first grade training at the beginning of the season.

"There were a couple of clubs who were after my services, but when I looked at the facilities they have here, and the enthusiasm of the people involved, I decided the University was the best bet.

"Obviously we cannot compete for the players who want match payments, but we can still be competitive with hard work and team effort — and by giving the younger players a chance.

"I believe the links with Radford and Woden junior clubs will be beneficial for years into the future."

University secured the services of the experienced Alan Rankine on his return to Canberra from Tasmania; another

midfielder, Paul Panabianco, moved from second division ANU.

Andy Wilson, from Canberra City, has linked with Scott Wilson to strengthen the defence. Up front Dominic Bartone is the nearest the club has to star quality with 11 league goals so far this season.

Lynes, an experienced coach in the local competition and the National Youth League, also has high hopes for 16-year-old Dustin Wells, whose favourite position is wide on the right.

"Both our under-19 and under-23 sides look as if they can make their respective finals, and that can only be good for the future of the club," he said.

GLENTORAN EYES KELLY

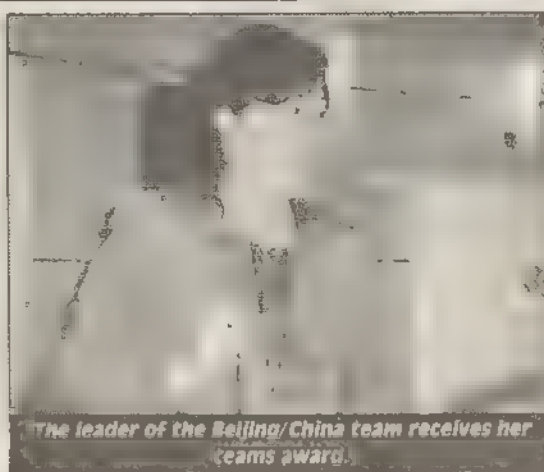
Former Canberra Cosmos captain Norman Kelly may link with Irish League side Glentoran in the coming season.

Kelly, who left Canberra two months ago after being told he would not be required by the Cosmos in the 1999-00 campaign, has been training with Glentoran, one of the powerhouses of Irish soccer north of the border.

It now seems likely he will take part in a pre-season

tournament also involving Liverpool and one of the top Dutch clubs.

Kelly, who was also a popular development officer for Soccer Canberra during his time with the Cosmos, could be back in the national capital if his playing career falters, possibly with the job of promoting the game in the run-up to the Olympics.



The leader of the Beijing/China team receives her team award.

Kanga Cup Awards

The leader of the Beijing, China team receives a plaque commemorating its participation in the Kanga Cup, during a dinner for team officials. The tournament, the biggest to date, is expected to net Soccer Canberra a profit of around \$20,000 and pump more than \$500,000 into the local economy.

SC's chief executive, Robert Bennett, said the money made from this competition will help to send ACT teams away to national championships.

A hat-trick from the league's leading scorer, Steve Lazzari, helped Western Creek Royals back on to their winning way against University of Canberra at a rain swept University Oval on Sunday.

Lazzari's triple strike in the 3-0 ACT Premiership win was matched by Marko Perinovic as Belconnen United cruised to a 4-0 margin over bottom-placed Queanbeyan City. It was an afternoon in which all the top-four teams took maximum points.

But watch for Canberra Olympic, whose final hopes seemed in ruins a month ago. They extended their unbeaten run to four games by beating Canberra Deakin 4-0, prompting Deakin coach Bernie Lustica to say afterwards: "We have just played against the best team in the competition."

Olympic moved to fifth place, but still have some work to do in order to cancel the effects of a very ordinary first half of the season.

The University had some cause to hope after a goal-less first half in which both sides squandered chances, but Lazzari, still a master striker well into his 30s, upset the balance 10 minutes after the interval.

A header from Nick Behr scrambled away at the first post, had probably been the University's best chance so far, but on the counter-attack Lazzari struck decisively turning the ball into the net from the edge of the penalty area.

In the 78th minute he beat the offside trap and dribbled round goalkeeper Chris Freeman for his second. The third resulted from a corner, the ball coming out to midfielder Manuel Serrano who drove a pass to the feet of Lazzari for the striker to finish.

He might easily have had a couple more. In the first half Lazzari hit the crossbar and at 1-0 he collected a ball from Peter Hader and the most delicate of chips goalwards had Freeman at full stretch to save.

Royals coach Jimmy Bland said the conditions were never going to suit good football. "But apart from the first 20 minutes I thought we were on top of them," he said.

"We weren't getting quality balls up front to Lazzari and Hader in the first half and that was largely corrected in the second.

He praised 15-year-old debut-maker Rubin Ayres. "He has all the makings of a fine player and I am very pleased at the way he lasted 90 minutes," he said.

University coach Rod Lynes said it had been a disappointing second half. "We were competitive until then, but the second goal knocked the stuffing out of us," he said.

"We didn't defend well, and two of the goals came as a result of us giving the ball away and letting them get in behind us."

Perinovic ended his goal drought with three goals against Queanbeyan City in a game where coach Lino Fiorese said the big striker had at last been served some quality passes.

Unfortunately Perinovic will be on the sidelines in the match against Burns Club this weekend after collecting a yellow card. Lee Pietrowski was the Beis' other scorer.

Olympic team-boss Baz Giampaolo praised one of his side's best performances of the season as double strikes from Geoff Howarth and Njegosh Popovich saw them home against Deakin.

"It could have been more, while our goalkeeper, Angelo Konstantinou, had one save to make all day," he said.

Lustica said his team were "torn apart...Olympic are looking very good with the likes of Howarth, Peter Mazis and Alex Castro in their side."

Probably the best side we have played all season," he said.

It's not often that a coach can find things to praise in a 4-0 loss, but Burns Club's Steve Bryant said there were many positive outcomes from his side's beating at the hands of league leaders Monaro.

"A penalty was the only goal that separated us in the first half and the other goals did not come until the final quarter of the game," said Bryant, who had teenagers Sam Huggins and Carl Varley in his line-up.

"We're lacking in experience, and that's a problem which won't go away this season, but apart from that I'm quite

pleased with the way we stood up to them."

Monaro's scores were Danny Macor (2 - including the penalty) Danny Serena and Bruno Monterosso.

In the remaining match, goals by Tony Lemezzina, David Stambolziev and Pat Phommaseisy gave Capital City Suns a 3-1 win over Gungahlin Juventus.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Division 1							
Belconnen United	4	Queanbeyan City	0				
Capital City Sun	3	Gungahlin Juventus	1				
Univ of Canberra	0	Western Creek Royals	3				
Monaro	4	Burns Club	0				
Canberra Deakin	0	Canberra Olympic	4				

P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaro	12	8	2	0	2	39	15
Western Crk Royals	12	7	3	0	2	28	15
Capital City Suns	12	8	1	0	3	12	16
Belconnen United	12	7	2	0	3	36	14
Canberra Olympic	12	6	1	1	4	26	15
Canberra Deakin	12	6	1	1	4	22	18
Gungahlin Juventus	12	6	1	0	5	22	20
Univ of Canberra	12	3	1	0	8	22	11
Burns Club	12	2	0	0	10	9	47
Queanbeyan City	12	0	0	0	12	15	58

Under 23s: Monaro 4 Burns Club 1, Belconnen United 11 Queanbeyan City 0, Canberra Deakin 0 Canberra Olympic 0, University of Canberra 6 Western Creek Royals 3, Capital City Suns 7 Gungahlin Juventus 1.

Points: Western Creek Royals 27, Belconnen United 27, Monaro 27, University of Canberra 26, Canberra Olympic 23, Canberra Deakin 16, Burns Club 15, Capital City Suns 14, Gungahlin Juventus 10, Queanbeyan City 0.

Youth League (Cosmos Division): Monaro 2 Burns Club 4, Belconnen United 7, Queanbeyan City 0, Canberra Deakin 6, Canberra Olympic 0, University of Canberra 2, Western Creek Royals 1.

Points: Belconnen United 36, University of Canberra 29, Gungahlin Juventus 24, Western Creek Royals 24, Canberra Deakin 23, Monaro 12, Capital City Suns 11, Canberra Olympic 9, Burns Club 6, Queanbeyan City 5.

Youth League (Rockets Division): Belconnen 0 Tuggeranong United 8.

Points: Tuggeranong United 35, Belconnen United 24, Belwest 14, Radford 12, Southern Spirit 9, Belconnen 6.

Division 2							
O'Connor Knights	5	Sabres	1				
P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
O'Connor Knights	15	12	2	1	0	32	5
Tuggeranong United	14	9	2	0	3	43	16
Belwest Foxes	14	6	2	0	6	31	30
Cooma	14	7	0	1	6	22	24
ANU	14	4	3	1	6	27	24
Sabres	14	2	5	1	6	20	39
White Eagles	14	4	2	0	8	22	30
Defence Academy	13	1	2	0	10	9	38

Reserves: O'Connor Knights 1 Sabres 0.

Points: O'Connor Knights 32, Tuggeranong United 30, ANU 26, Belwest Foxes 24, White Eagles 22, Sabres 11, Defence Academy 11, Cooma 4.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Gungahlin Juventus v Canberra Deakin

Queanbeyan City v Capital City Suns

Burns Club v Belconnen United

Western Creek Royals v Monaro

Canberra Olympic v University of Canberra

O'Connor

AN AUSTRALIAN & ENGLISH

SOCCER WEEKLY



SHARP CHAI

GAME 1 • SOCCEROOS 0 MA



CHALLENGE CUP

N. UNITED 2 • MELBOURNE

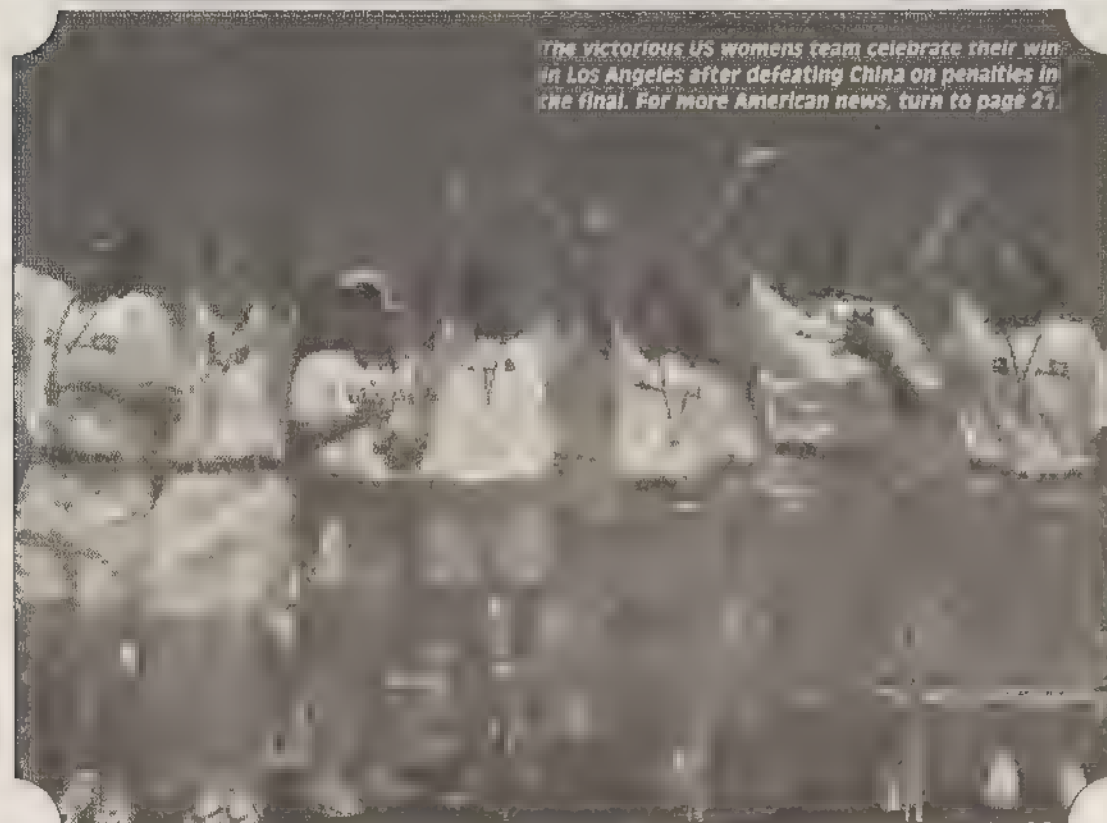
THE WEEK IN THE GLOBAL GAME SPONSORED BY THE FOUR DIEGOS RADIO SHOW AND ADELAIDE'S COAST FM SOCCER



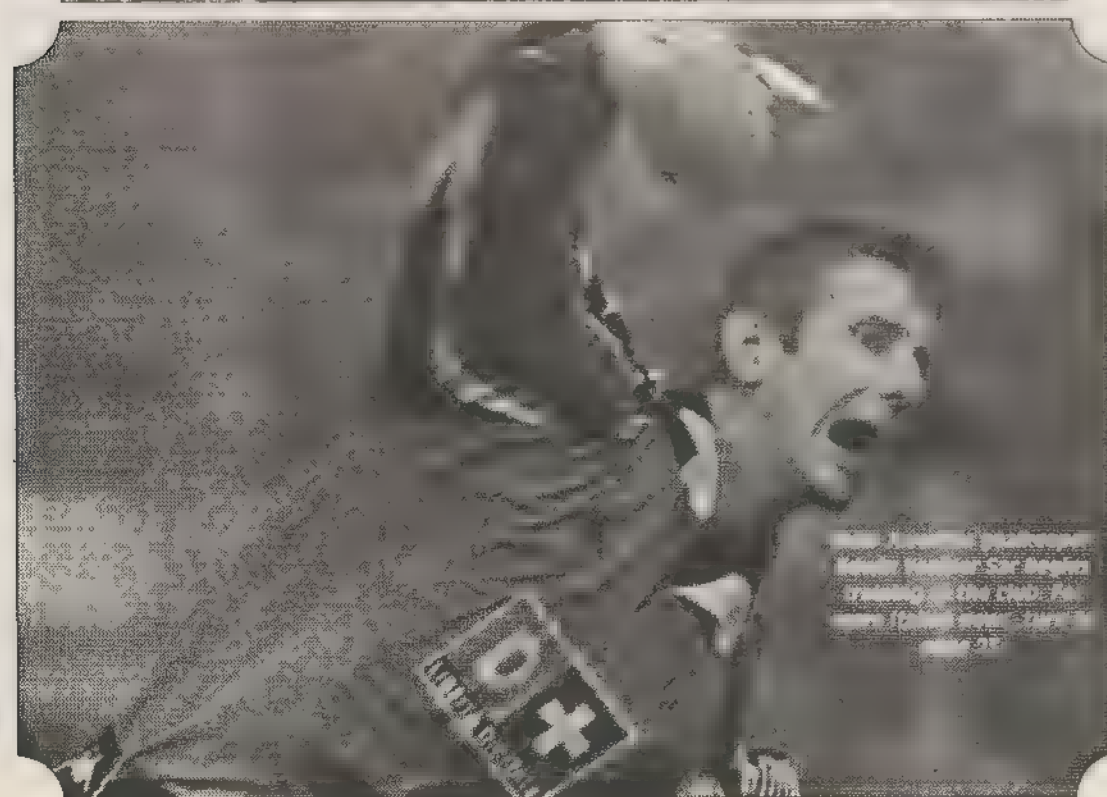
Brazil and FC Porto star striker, Mario Jardel, shows us his best Spiderman impression as he salutes the crowd. For more South American news, turn to page 22.



The wild Frenchmen, Eric Cantona is back playing for France but only this time it's on the sand. For more European news, turn to page 25.



The victorious US women's team celebrate their win in Los Angeles after defeating China on penalties in the final. For more American news, turn to page 21.



For more European news, turn to page 25.



For more European news, turn to page 25.

Compiled by

ASIA

BECKS TO PLAY
IN CHINA

Chinese soccer fans were elated at reports that England midfielder David Beckham will join his Manchester United teammates for a sold-out exhibition match in Shanghai this week.

The official Shanghai News, quoting organizers, said Beckham will arrive here from Britain today (Tuesday), slightly before his teammates.

He decided to skip the Australia leg of the team's pre-season tour due to his honeymoon with pop star Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams.

The news that Beckham would play in China had already spread like wildfire among football fans here, driving up the blackmarket price for tickets, the daily said.

The winners of the English Premier League, FA Cup and European Cup treble are scheduled to face Chinese league leaders Shanghai Shenhua on July 21. All 80,000 tickets sold out an unheard-of five weeks in advance.

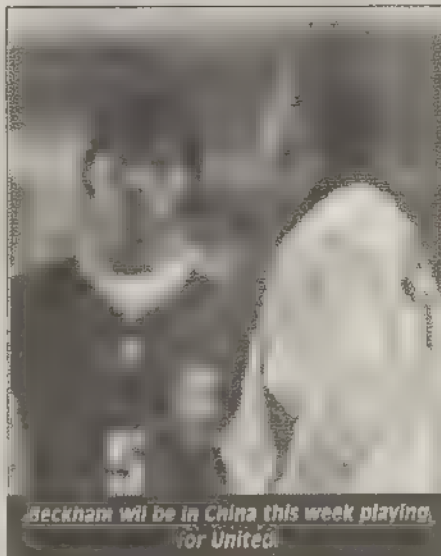
Blackmarket prices of tickets that originally went for 60 yuan (7.2 dollars) were as high as 150 yuan two weeks ago but fell back to their face value after an earlier report that Beckham would not be present.

Fears of counterfeiting pushed organizers into printing the tickets in Hong Kong, using state-of-the-art technology.

Apart from Paul Keane, Norwegian defender Ronny Johnsen, England midfielder Paul Scholes and defender Gary Neville stayed at home to recuperate from off-season injuries.

United, who have legions of supporters throughout the world, are looking to capitalise on their phenomenal success by further promoting their brand during the Australia-China tour.

The football world's richest and most glamorous club made 29.6 million pounds profit last year after excluding players' transfer fees.



Beckham will be in China this week playing for United.

Asian soccer suffering

Asia's hopes of capitalizing on World Cup 2002 to promote soccer in the region may suffer if Asia's threat of a boycott becomes a reality, an Asian Football Confederation official warned.

"The promotion of football on the continent may suffer if the threat of boycott of the tournament goes through," he told a news agency on condition of anonymity.

The official said the 2002 World Cup was significant to Asia because it was the first time ever the region with 3.5 billion people was hosting the World Cup.

"There is a need for FIFA to be sensitive. By accepting Asia's request FIFA will help significantly boost the profile and image of football in the region," he added.

The comments came after the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) walked out of the FIFA Congress in Los Angeles in protest at the number of places allocated to the region in the 2002 World Cup.

The move by Asian members, angry at being handed only four-and-a-half places at the 2002 World Cup by soccer's world governing body, humiliated FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who had appealed to them not to leave the meet.

He vowed that soccer's world governing body would not give in to pressure to award an extra place for the 2002 finals, which will be hosted jointly by Japan and South Korea.

But other Asian delegates had warned that a threatened boycott of the next World Cup would take place unless an extra fifth berth, which was given to South America, is granted to Asia.

AFC supremo Peter Velappan had said the continent deserved five places in the qualifying tournament.

The Asian official also took a swipe at Blatter for being insensitive to Asia's quest to develop the sport in the region.

Asia has 42 countries who will fight for two berths while South America with 10 countries but have five places, he said.

The official also said resources spent by FIFA and AFC to enhance the interest and quality of football would go to waste if Asia boycotts the premier event.

The official also said since qualifying draws were expected in December the issue had to be resolved soon, but was unable to give a date of when the AFC would call an extraordinary congress to endorse the boycott.

Have Your Say ...

Dear Sir,

I have a solution to FIFA's problem regarding Asia wanting a full three qualifying positions for the next World Cup.

Just increase the number up to 40 finalist's instead of 32. Before everyone falls over with laughter from their chairs saying where it will all end, I will explain.

Even though there has just been an increase from 24 to 32 recently, there also has been a large increase in the number of new countries added to the list of family nation's which continues to grow.

Since the break-up of the old Soviet Union and old Yugoslavia, there has been over 20 new countries added to the list, with possibly Kosovo, East Timor, New Caledonia and others to be added on in the near future.

With the next World Cup being hosted by two countries, an extra eight teams can be handled comfortably between the two.

Also you get rid of all these half positions from different continents, where opponents have to fly to different parts of the world to qualify.

Also the advantages are that all countries

will get a minimum four games instead of three at present in the finals, as eight groups, would still remain, but with five teams in each, instead of four.

There would obviously be four extra matches in each group with 32 games in all added on, which would need an extra week at least to fulfil.

That shouldn't be a problem if the squads are increased to 25 players in each country participating. It will mean more money for everyone, from FIFA down with 38 positions available instead of 30 to qualify, the overall composition of numbers distributed throughout the confederations would go like this.

Europe (present number in bracket's for 2002) 18 (14½), Africa 6 (5), Asia 4 (2½),

South America 6 (4½), CONCACAF (3) 3, Oceania 1 (½).

That would solve all the problems of half positions from here and there. If CONCACAF deserves another it should come off Europe, who I allocated 3½ extra positions.

See what Sepp Blatter thinks of my proposal. I think it's better than a boycott anytime.

Dominic Scullino,
Qld. Aust.



2002
FIFA WORLD CUP
KOREA JAPAN

NANAMI
VOWS TO
SHINE AFTER
COPA

Japanese star midfielder Hiroshi Nanami, written off by national coach Philippe Troussier after his poor performance at the Copa America, vowed to shine again at Venezia.

"I believe I'll be given an opportunity to clear all the tasks before me," the former Jubilo Iwata chance-maker said before flying to Italy to join the Serie-A club.

"I feel hopeful but still anxious," said the 26-year-old at an airport news conference.

"But I will do my best and live up to the expectations of people concerned and my supporters."

Nanami's "golden left foot", which has earned him a three-year contract with Venezia, failed to create much when Japan ended their guest appearance at the South American championship with two losses and one draw.

Troussier, the flamboyant Frenchman who took over Japan's national side after their winless debut in the World Cup finals last year, blamed the poor show mainly on Nanami.

"Nanami is a skillful player, but he'll never be a leader all his life," Troussier said. "He lacks mental toughness and doesn't try to assert himself enough."

IN BRIEF

Three slightly blurred photos have angered many in China and sparked suggestions the country was robbed of possible victory in the Women's World Cup against the US.

The photos show U.S. goalkeeper Briana Scurry moving forward to save a shot by China's Liu Ying in the penalty kick shootout.

Scurry's lunging save, after 120 minutes of scoreless play, opened the door for her team to win the shootout 5-4 for the title July 10.

Even before the game, Chinese media wondered whether the officiating would be fair in what many viewed as a politically charged showdown. A victory, they felt, might help avenge NATO's May 7 bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia.

The frame-by-frame images show Scurry taking a few steps forward before Liu hit her penalty kick.

"America's goalkeeper broke the rules," screamed the Beijing Morning Post in a headline above the photos.

Technically, soccer rules forbid goalkeepers from moving forward before a penalty kick. But virtually all goalies do so, and such a violation is rarely called.

The Morning Post said the referee's failure to blow the whistle on Scurry and allow Liu to retake the penalty kick "caused the Chinese team to 'wrongly' occupy second place."

Adding to the perceived injustice was Scurry's admission to the Los Angeles Times, like the photos widely published by Chinese state-run media, that she knew she was breaking the rules.

But Chinese soccer authorities have decided to let the matter rest.

"The referee's decisions are final. An appeal could not alter the result," Wang Junsheng, a vice chairman of China's Soccer Association, told state media.

Wang was also forgiving about a chance China had to win the game during overtime. Fan Yunjie drove a header toward the goal that midfielder Kristine Lilly cleared off the line.

Chinese newspapers, citing a CNN replay, said the ball crossed the line and should have made China the winner. The Shanghai News published a sketch of Lilly with her head and the ball behind the line as she knocked it out.

But Wang, the soccer official, said the shot was hard for the referee to call. He likened the play to Diego Maradona's "hand of God" goal when the Argentine star got away with fisting a ball into England's net to advance to the 1986 World Cup semifinals.

Despite the loss, the Chinese stars were feted as national heroines.

Hundreds of fans beating drums and cymbals greeted them at Beijing's airport and Communist Party leaders, including President Jiang Zemin, honored the team with a reception at the capital's Great Hall of the People.

State-run television has produced a rock song for the team, complete with ripping electric guitar solos and a video showing clips of them playing. "Daughters of China, daughters of China, the motherland's pride, the motherland's pride," goes the song.

A Hong Kong tycoon and legislator, Timothy Fok, offered the team \$362,000 for its efforts, the China Daily reported Friday.

At the Copa America, Nanami filled in for playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata who was sidelined after his first season with Italy's Perugia. But Nanami was substituted at halftime against Paraguay before Japan lost 4-0 in the first round.

The Copa America disaster followed his success in the first half of the season at home.

He led Iwata to the top of the J-League in the first half of the season after Brazil's 1998 World Cup captain Dunga left the team.

Nanami was named the most valuable J-League player of the half year and also helped the club to the Asian Club Championship this year.

A graduate of Tokyo's Juntendo University, he has scored six goals from 54 matches he played for the Japanese national team since August 1995, five months after his professional debut with Iwata.

He scored in his debut international-A match, in which Japan beat Costa Rica 3-0.

With his annual salary and transfer money from Venezia estimated at 80 million yen (\$667,000 dollars) and 300 million yen (2.5 million dollars), Nanami is the third Japanese player to play in Serie A — after Kazuyoshi Miura with Genoa in 1994-1995 and Nakata.

SCANDINAVIA VIA

• CLUB PROFILES •

ROSENBERG BALLKLUB



Postal address: N-7005 TRONDHEIM, Norway
Phone: +47 73 82 21 00
Fax: +47 73 94 40 70
E-mail: info@rbk.no
Internet: http://www.rbk.no/
Founded: 19 May 1917
Stadium: Lerkendal, Trondheim
Ground capacity: 13 585 seats
 700 VIP
 10,000 non-seated spectators
Record attendance: 28 455 spectators (RBK - Lillestrøm, 1985)
Members: About 1 400
Most matches: Ola By Rise - 457
Most goals: Odd Iversen - 158
Colours: White shirt - black trousers - white stockings
Reserve colours: Red shirt - black trousers - white/black stockings
President: Rune Bratseth
General Manager: Nils Skutle
Sports Director: Curt Christensen
Head Coach: Trond Sollied
Honours: Norwegian Championships
League Champions: 12 times since 1967
Norwegian Cup Winners: 7 times since 1960
Participation in the European Cups: UEFA Champions League: 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99
League Winners Cup: 1968-69, 1970-71, 1972-73, 1986-87, 1989-90, 1991-92, 1993-94
Cup Winners Cup: 1965-66
UEFA Cup: 1971-72, 1974-75, 1990-91, 1992-93, 1994-95

The Rosenborg Ballklub History

The Lerkendal stadium is one of the most northerly venues in the world and since the mid 1980s it has been the home ground of a footballing success story.

Though the club was founded in 1917, hibernation is perhaps an adequate term to describe its first 50 years since no honours for the club were recorded until 1960.

It was really only the determined efforts of a small group of fans that put Rosenborg on the road to success. Odd Iversen, Norway's greatest ever domestic goalscorer joined the club at about that time and things started to happen.

Its first cup championship came in 1960, the first league championship in 1967, the first dou-

ble in 1971, a feat Rosenborg has equalled four times since 1988.

Now the club regularly plays and, often beats, some of the giants of European football: AC Milan (away) in the 1996/97 season, Real Madrid (home) in the 1997/98 season and Liverpool in a friendly in the pre-Premier League 1998/99 season.

What are some of the factors behind this success? Grass-roots professionalism could be one description of the Rosenborg team-spirit and ethos that keeps players, ex-players and spectators loyal to the club.

For example, Odd Iversen still has an active role to play in the club; Rune Bratseth, former captain of RBK and Norway, returned to be its President after a highly successful career as a player in Werner Bremen; Nils Arne Eggen, himself a former RBK player with 29 international cups, has been RBK's head coach more or less continuously during the past two decades.

Even Ola By Rise with his 457 matches is still there, not as a player (however, you never know with him) but as part of the club's team of trainers.

Many Norwegian internationals who had their breakthrough as players in RBK moved to clubs elsewhere in Europe for a few seasons and returned to Rosenborg as players with more experience.

Rosenborg has also become a name amongst English Premier League clubs and Scottish football through numerous transfers of promising RBK players in the 1990s.

Naturally, such players leave gaps, but they are soon filled by eager newcomers. Their motivation to join Rosenborg is only partly explained by the club's achievements.

Part of the RBK ethos is encouragement to combine football with higher education. This works, and quite a few RBK players already have degrees or are studying at the highly-rated university in Trondheim. This combination is attractive for the players and literally keeps their feet on the ground, off the field that is.

Another hallmark of Rosenborg is its high attendance figures, an average of 12,000 a match is very respectable in a city of only 140,000.

The spectators also get what they pay for; open, attacking, intelligent football where fair play and success are very much the order of the day, as well as integral elements in the Rosenborg Ballklub story.

ROSENBERG STAR PLAYERS

Name: Sigurd Rushfeldt

Date of birth: 11.12.72

Height/Weight: 188/86

Position: Forward

Previous clubs: Vadsø Turn, Norilid, Tromsø, Birmingham City (England).

Appearances: 48 matches for RBK, 48 goals.

- 8 UEFA Champions League matches for RBK, 4 goals.

- In total 10 European Cup matches, 5 goals.

- About 120 matches for Tromsø, About 80 goals.

- 8 international matches for Norway.

- 2 U-21 international matches for Norway

Name: Jahn Ivar "Mini" Jakobsen

Date of birth: 08.11.65

Height/Weight: 168/74

Position: Forward

Previous clubs: IK Junkeren, Grand Bodø, Bodø/Glimt, Young Boys Bern, MSV Duisburg, KV Lierse.

Appearances: Norwegian League Champion: 1997, 1996, 1995, 1990, 1988.

Norwegian Cup Champion: 1995, 1990, 1988.

- 225 matches for Rosenborg, 125 goals.

- 18 UEFA Champions League matches, 4 goals.

- In total 30 European Cup matches for RBK.

- 64 international matches for Norway, 10 goals.

- Member of Norway's squad for World Cup 1998.

- 4 U-21 international matches for Norway.

BRONDBY



Address: Brøndby IF A/S
 GuldhøjCentret Brøndbyvester Boulevard 8
 DK-2605 Brøndby
Phone: +45 43 63 08 10
Fax: +45 43 43 26 27
E-mail: brondby@brondby-if.dk
Chairman of the Board: Ole Borch
Managing Director and Chairman of the Amateur Club: Per Bjerregaard
Headcoach: Ebbe Skovdahl
Head-sponsor: CODAN FORSIKRING A/S
Sports clothes-sponsor: Reebok
Home ground: Brøndby Stadion
Capacity: 21,300
Seating capacity: 6,074
Light: 1,000 LUX
Dimension: 109m x 74m.
Clubmembers: About 1,000 active
Teams: About 60 teams play in a local tournament
Colour (home/away): Yellow-Blue - Blue / Purple-Purple-Purple

In January 1973 he was succeeded by Per Bjerregaard, who has been club president since then.

Finn Laudrup, a former player of the Danish national team, coached and played for the team in 1973.

From 1974 he concentrated on playing and became captain of the team and fulfilled the club's first long-term goal: to become a division club. Later the club was promoted in 1977 and in 1981. With that the next goal was achieved: First Division.

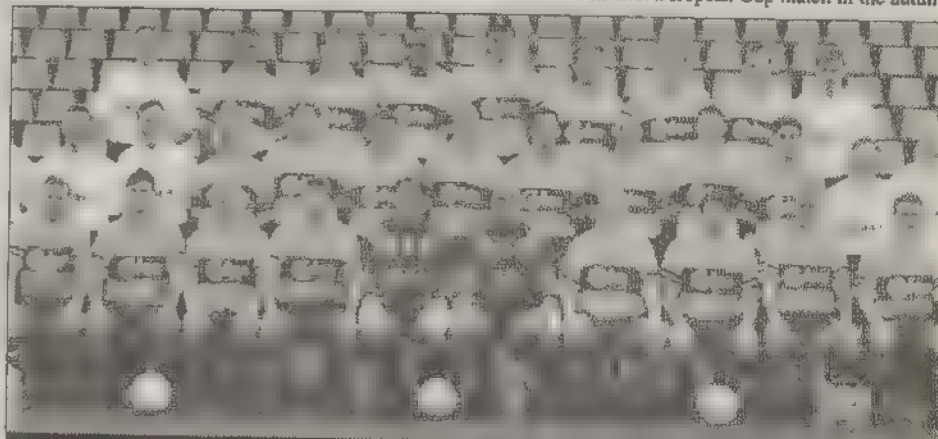
During the first three seasons the club took the honourable, but frustrating fourth place.

On his 18th birthday on the 15th of June 1982, Michael Laudrup became Brøndby IF's first player on the Danish national team.

Since then, a further 30 players from Brøndby IF have played on the Danish national team. The first Danish championship was won in 1985.

Later championships in 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1996, 1997 and 1998 followed. The Danish national cup tournament was won by Brøndby IF in 1989, 1994 and 1998.

On the international arena Brøndby IF has made a name for itself as Denmark's most powerful football club since its first European Cup match in the autumn



The 1990 Brøndby side. Last year they were overpowered by the might of Manchester United but watch out for them this season in both Sweden and Europe.

The History of Brøndby

With about 1,200 members, a very large and dynamic youth department and room for both elite and width, Brøndbyernes Idrætsforening is today one of Denmark's largest and most powerful football clubs.

Furthermore, it has Denmark's largest and best organised fan club "Brøndby Support" with more than 16,100 members.

Brøndbyernes Idrætsforening was founded on the 3rd of December 1964 by consolidating the two football clubs Brøndbyøster Idrætsforening and Brøndbyvester Idrætsforening.

The reason for the consolidation was a wish from the at the time parish council to unite the sport associations of the municipality.

At that time the association comprised several types of sports such as football, team handball, gymnastics, badminton etc. From the beginning the football department concentrated on the youth.

Throughout the years, the youth department has always had and still has a very high priority in the club. The senior department was, however, also strengthened by the consolidation and already in 1967 it succeeded in winning the Zealand 1. series and was promoted to the Zealand League.

During the same period, the club was divided according to the different sports. The football club kept the name and the mayor of Brøndby, Kjeld Rasmussen, became its first president.

of 1986. Brøndby IF has played a total of 68 European Cup matches in the three European tournaments.

The best result achieved was the semi-final in the UEFA Cup in 1991, but also the quarter finals in the European Champions Cup in 1987 and in the UEFA Cup in 1997 has earned the club international respect.

The best single results in this context was the win against Liverpool FC in 1995 and Karlsruher SC in 1996. In 1998 Brøndby IF played in the Champions League Group D with Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Manchester United.

Brøndbyernes IF Fodbold was founded on the 15th of May 1978 in connection with the introduction of professional football in Denmark. Brøndbyernes IF Fodbold A/S became listed on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange in 1987. Brøndby IF was with this the second football club in the world to be listed.

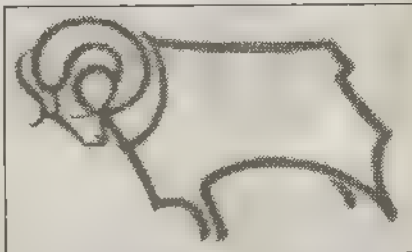
In 1990 Brøndby IF acquired and rebuild GuldhøjCentret, the former Guldhøj School, representing an investment of \$65 million. The rebuilding was financed by a capital increase in 1990.

The GuldhøjCentret is situated in the immediate vicinity of Brøndby Stadium and consists of a hotel with 78 rooms, a health centre and a physiotherapeutic clinic, the Team Danmark hostel and other enterprises. The administration of Brøndby IF is situated in the GuldhøjCentret.

The chairman of Brøndby IF, lawyer Ole Borch, has been Brøndby IF's lawyer since 1989 and was elected chairman of the board of directors in 1996.

NORTH AMERICA

US PREPARE FOR MEXICO WITH A DERBY WIN



Eddie Lewis and Ben Olsen scored in the second half to give the U.S. men's soccer team a 2-1 win over Derby County Club of the English Premier League.

Olsen broke a 1-1 tie in the 76th minute, sending a perfectly timed header past goalkeeper Mart Pool from 18 feet out. Lewis had tied the game in the 64th minute, scoring on a rebound after a shot by Ernie Stewart was blocked.

Dean Sturridge scored the only goal for Derby County, which is using an 11-day tour of the United States to get in shape for its 1999-2000 season, which begins Aug. 7.

Derby County hit two cross-bars and a goal post in the second half.

Derby County led 1-0 at the half on Sturridge's goal in the 26th minute. Sturridge produced a give-and-go play with Darryl Powell and sent the return pass over goalkeeper Brad Friedel's left shoulder from 15 feet out.

Paul Bravo had a good scoring chance moments after Sturridge's goal, but Pool made a diving stop of the 20-foot shot.

It was the U.S. team's final tuneup for the Confederation Cup, which runs July 24-Aug. 4 in Mexico.

U.S. national men's team coach Bruce Arena watched every minute of the U.S. women's team's victory over China.

But not once did he figure it would add any pressure on him or his team as it prepares for the upcoming Confederation Cup.

"I congratulate them for winning, but I don't feel any more pressure at all for us to win a world championship," Arena said.

"I don't anticipate us winning one, not with the talented teams of the world like Brazil and Mexico, but I see us doing well."

Arena has more pressing matters. The U.S. men's team played

English Premier League side, Derby County at Mile High Stadium, the team's final tuneup before the Confederation Cup in which the Americans won 2-1.

"Our main objective will be to fill out our roster and a secondary one to train and play at altitude," Arena said before the game.

The U.S. team will join some of the world's best teams for the July 24-Aug. 4 competition in Mexico.

US TO GO ON EXHIBITION TOUR

First the Victory Tour, now the Great Soccer Exhibition Tour for the United States women's World Cup champions following their great performance over the past month.

Stars Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain and Julie Foudy, along with the rest of the team, will regroup in October for a three-month indoor soccer exhibition tour.

The team will compete against a World All-star team in 11 matches starting Oct. 22 in Pittsburgh and ending Dec. 12 in Tacoma, Wash.

Lee Berke, a vice president with the sports marketing firm SFX Sports Group, which helped organize the tour, said it will allow the players to earn money from soccer, stay close to their fans and demonstrate the viability of a professional league.

He said a number of sponsors, including beverage, financial services and packaged goods companies, have expressed interest in the tour. He said talks are under way about producing a TV special during the tour.

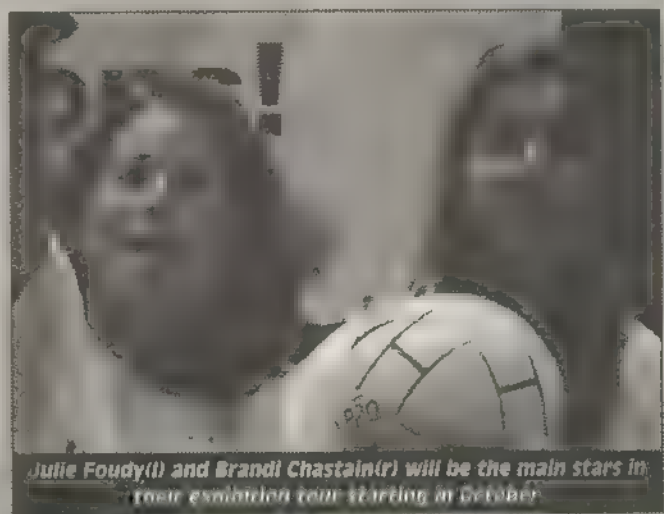
The U.S. players' plans, though, conflict with recently announced plans by the U.S. Soccer Federation to send the women's team on a tour of South Africa, Egypt and Australia from late October through December.

The issue is expected to be discussed next week when the players meet with the USSF to negotiate a new labor agreement.

The Washington Post reported that each player is guaranteed \$41,250 for playing in the 11 games, with the possibility of earning more if other games are added.

In addition to Pittsburgh and Tacoma, the team will make stops in Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Washington, Raleigh, San Jose and Anaheim.

The U.S. team captured the World Cup with a 5-4 penalty-kicks victory over China in the title game at the Rose Bowl.



Julie Foudy(l) and Brandi Chastain(r) will be the main stars in their exhibition tour starting in October.

"Our players know the game is important," Arena said. "We need to name a 20-man roster and I will make that decision."

Among those on the team for the game against Derby were veterans Claudio Reyna, Joe-Max Moore and Jeff Agoos. Ben Olsen and Joey DiGiamarino come from the Under-23 National team.

Goalkeeper Kasey Keller, midfielders Chris Armas, Jovan Kirovski and Eddie Lewis and forward Cobi Jones were key performers in the team's victory over Argentina.

"In order to be successful in Mexico, we must take a healthy team, an experienced team and one that has depth at every position," Arena said.

"We play three matches in seven days and possibly four matches in nine days, so I feel every player will have to contribute."

Anyone for golf?

Soccer jerseys and ponytails replaced knit shirts and sun visors as pre-teen girls swarmed across a country club to see stars from the champion U.S. women's soccer team try their luck at golf.

Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy and Brandi Chastain, all members of the team that beat China for the World Cup, played an exuberant 18 holes at the Wykagyl County Club, bantering with fans and insulting each other across the fairways.

When Chastain got more sod than ball on one shot, Foudy shouted, "I hate when that happens." And when Chastain was asked to reveal her handicap, she said, "Julie's my handicap."

The soccer stars played with pros Meg Mallon and Karrie Webb in the best-ball pro-am tournament of the Japan Airlines Big Apple Classic.

Well before they teed off, the soccer players attracted uncommon early morning attention as they warmed up on the club's driving range.

Among the scores of youngsters six year old was Allison Kowalski, who sneaked inside the spectator ropes and got her jersey — already labeled with Hamm's name and number — autographed by all three stars.

Staci Whunfield and Allison Farina, both 11 staked out a spot alongside the cart path between the driving range and the first tee, hoping for a chat with Hamm.

"I haven't figured out what to say yet," said Staci. "Probably just 'Hi' and 'You're my hero.'"

As Hamm and Foudy teed off before a crowd of 200, the starter announced that he'd never seen that many people at 8:30. A few minutes later, as Chastain was about to swing, she was put off by the usual hush.



Hamm(p), Foudy and Chastain all had a hit on the course.

"In soccer we have noise," she told the crowd. "So don't be afraid. I'm serious." The gallery took up chants of "USA!" and "Go for the goal." Satisfied, she hit the ball.

The foursome that included Hamm and Foudy was just ahead of the one that included Chastain, and they managed to rib each other whenever they were close enough.

Even the fans got in the act when Chastain was sizing up a putt, a fan shouted, "Kick it! I'd be better if I did," she said.

Hamm poked fun at Chastain's outfit, shouting, "You look good, except for that one long sock."

Chastain, who at the moment of victory in the World Cup tore off her jersey and revealed her bra, kept her sleeveless shirt on but did doff a gray sweater she wore during warmups.

The soccer champs were asked by officials not to delay the tourney by signing autographs, but Chastain broke the rule a couple of times and when the women had finished their 18 holes, they sat and signed autographs for 40 minutes on balls, magazine covers, jerseys and even faces.

As they ran out of time, adults were asked to leave the line, then older children, leaving just the smiling, adoring youngest fans.

WOMENS SOCCER BETTER THAN THE MENS GAME

The U.S. women's soccer team don't just win, they set records, for biggest crowds and TV ratings during this World Cup win.

The final match, which drew a women's sports-record 90,185 to the Rose Bowl, turned out to be the most-watched soccer game in U.S. television history.

The United States' victory over China posted a 11.4 preliminary national rating and a 31 share, according to ABC.

That was 20 percent higher than the 1994 men's World Cup final between Italy and Brazil, which had a 9.5/24.

The success even prompted ESPN to replay the game opposite baseball's All-Star game.

An estimated 11.3 million homes and 40 million viewers watched the American women's shootout victory.

The 1994 championship game was seen in 8.9 million homes on ABC and another 1.6 million homes on Spanish-speaking Univision, a total of 10.5 million households. This year's game was not available on Univision.

The ratings for the World Cup final was double ABC's 5.7 rating for last year's men's World Cup final between Brazil and France in Paris.

The American men in last year's World Cup didn't come close to the women. The three games involving the men in the 1998 World Cup averaged just a 3.0 national rating, partially because of the team's lack of success and also due to the fact that the tournament was played in France instead of the United States.

The Women's World Cup finale easily topped the NHL's Stanley Cup ratings, a 3.4 average for the three games on Fox.

It was even higher than the 1999 NBA Finals average of 11.3/21 and just shy of last year's World Series average of 14.1.

The American women began the tournament on ABC and received a 1.7 national rating in an opening-round victory over Denmark. That game was watched in 1.7 million homes.

The victory against Nigeria was seen in 1.4 million homes on ESPN, the win over Germany was watched in 1.67 million households and the semi-final match against Brazil was viewed in 2.9 million homes, making it the largest number of households to watch a telecast on the cable network.

"It was a fantastic success story," ESPN president George Bodenheimer said. "We were just pleased to be the television carrier, along with ABC. The tournament was a remarkable success."

The rating is the percentage of TV households in the United States tuned to a program, and each point represents 994,000 homes. Each cable point represents 766,000 homes on ESPN.

The share is the percentage tuned to a program among televisions in use at the time.



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SOUTH AMERICA

URUGUAY TO HOT FOR CHILE

URUGUAY CHILE

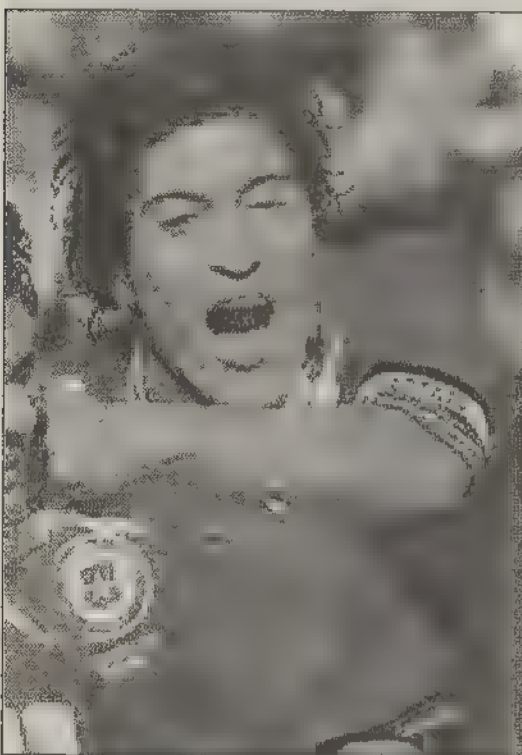
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Uruguay wins 5-3 on penalties

Uruguay has reached the Copa America final after beating Chile 5-3 on penalties after the teams had drawn 1-1 in a dismal semifinal.

Mauricio Aros saw Chile's second penalty saved by Fabian Carini while Uruguay converted all their shots.

Defender Alejandro Lembo gave Uruguay, who reached the final despite resting their European-based players, a first half lead with Ivan Zamorano equalizing. Extra time is not played in the Copa America.



Ivan Zamorano once again hit the target for Chile

Zamorano claimed his third goal of the tournament but his striking partner Marcelo Salas, returning from a two-match suspension, capped a wretched performance by missing a penalty.

The game, played in a near deserted Defensores of the Chaco stadium, was possibly the worst of a tournament, which has generally provided excellent entertainment.

Play was scrappy and the number of serious scoring chances could be counted on one hand.

Both sides finished third in their first round groups, going through under the rule which allows two third-placed teams to progress.

The mediocrity of this encounter appeared to confirm that their quarter-final wins over Paraguay and Colombia were flukes.

Alejandro Lembo put Uruguay in front with his first team's real attack, rising to head in a corner by Walter Coelho in the 23rd minute.

Three minutes later, Chile's Jose Luis Sierra hit the crossbar with a 30-metre free kick. In the melee that followed Chile were awarded a penalty for a foul on Salas as he was challenged by a defender.

Salas took the kick himself, only to add to the tournament's long list of penalty missers as he struck his kick against the bar.

Chile's equalizer in the 63rd minute also came from a Sierra free kick. This time, he floated the ball into the area and Zamorano took advantage of a rare lapse in concentration by Uruguay to head in from an unmarked position.

Chilean coach Nelson Acosta was sent off for dissent in the only incident of note after Chile's goal.

Chilean coach Nelson Acosta has accused Paraguayan police of mistreating him after he was sent off during his team's Copa America match against Uruguay.

Acosta was shown the red card for dissent late in the second half and was immediately surrounded by five police officers who tried to force him to leave the bench. The semifinal ended 1-1 before Chile won 5-3 on penalties.

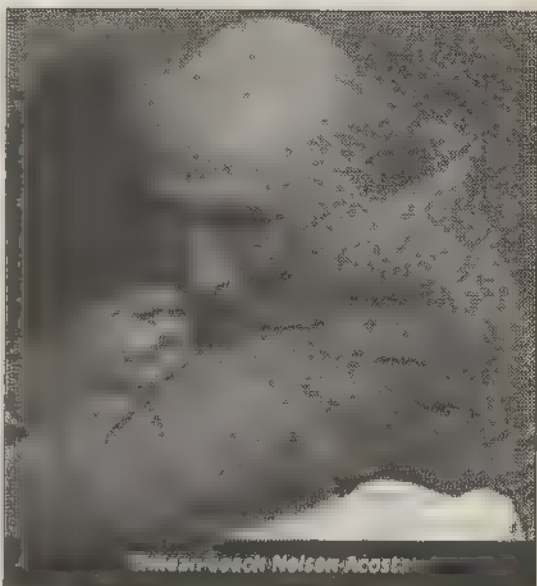
"It was abhorrent, humiliating and disrespectful of the police to take me from the field in the way they did," fumed Acosta.

"We suffered in, my own case, hostility by the Paraguayan authorities, by the police, who tried to go over the heads of the assistant referee by coming straight to the bench.

"Instead of protecting you, they try to remove you from the field of play," he continued.

"I'm very bitter. They were trying to attract attention by doing something which is not part of their job," Acosta charged.

When soccer coaches are sent off or suspended they are banned from sitting with the team on the bench and have to watch the game from the stands. If the coach protests, it is customary for the reserve referee and federation officials to persuade him to leave.



Normal practice for police is only to intervene in case of violence by the coach.

Acosta was also furious with referee Ubaldo Aquino, whose performance he described as "very weak, to say the least."

"Once I had been sent off, he began to harass my players on the field," Acosta claimed.

RIVALDO ROCKETS BRAZIL INTO THE FINAL

BRAZIL MEXICO

2
0

Defending champions Brazil beat Mexico 2-0 to reach the Copa America final with a mechanical performance which betrayed their reputation for flair and had nothing to do with Pele's so-called "beautiful game."

Brazil, who scored twice in the first half of the semi-final, concentrated most of their efforts on stopping opponents from creating and, on a sad day for football, played the last 10 minutes with only one recognised striker.

As in their quarter-final win over Argentina, Brazil depended on a couple of isolated moments of inspiration to settle the match with Amoroso and Rivaldo both scoring goals as they finished well-constructed moves.

Otherwise, they packed their midfield and did not hesitate to break the rules to stop their opponents.

The destructive Brazilians committed 19 fouls, nearly twice as many as Mexico, and played with the enthusiasm of production line workers going through a daily routine.

Emerson Ferreira, given the role of doing the dirty work in midfield, was guilty of several nasty challenges but amazingly escaped without being booked by Ecuadorian referee Byron Moreno.

Brazil reached their third successive Copa America final and will meet Uruguay, hoping to avenge their 1995 penalty shootout-defeat by the same team.

"We came here to win the competition and we've reached the final," said coach Wanderley Luxemburgo, apparently satisfied with his team's display.

Mexico won a dozen corners as well as several free kicks in dangerous positions but could not seriously threaten Brazilian goalkeeper, Dida with any of them.

Brazil's only prolonged spell of attacking came midway through the first half.

Ronaldo and Rivaldo both saw shots deflected past the goal before Amoroso put Brazil ahead in the 25th minute, firing in a rebound from close range after Rivaldo's header rebounded off the crossbar.

Rivaldo, viciously criticised by the Brazilian media for his lame performance against Argentina, scored the second in the 42nd minute with a left-foot shot from outside the penalty area after playing a one-

two with Ronaldo, who otherwise contributed little.

Ronaldo, booked against Argentina, appeared aware that he would miss the final if he picked up another yellow card and was substituted late in the game by Ronaldo Assis.

Amoroso, who became joint top-scorer in the competition with Ronaldo on four goals, was replaced by midfielder Alex leaving Brazil with only one out-and-out attacker for the last 10 minutes.

As in their first round matches with Brazil and Chile and their quarter-final against Peru, Mexico improved significantly after halftime but this time they never looked dangerous.

Apart from a couple of long-range shots, defender Rafael Marquez had the best effort, his close range header being well saved by keeper Dida.

The match followed an equally disappointing semi-final the previous day, when Uruguay beat Chile on penalties after a dismal 1-1 draw, in what until the quarters had been an excellent tournament.

Only around 10,000 fans, most of them Brazilians from across the nearby border, watched the game, high ticket prices possibly scaring off many people.

Mexico, beaten by Brazil for the second time in the tournament, were condemned to the third-place playoff against Chile.

Teams:

Brazil: Dida, Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Joao Carlos, Roberto Carlos, Emerson Ferreira, Flavio Conceicao (Beto, 78), Rivaldo, Ze Roberto, Amoroso (Alex 80), Ronaldo (Ronaldo Assis, 76)

Mexico: Jorge Campos, Isaac Terrazas (Ramon Ramirez, 46), Claudio Suarez, Rafael Marquez, Salvador Carmona, Pavel Pardo, Gerardo Torrado, Francisco Palencia (Daniel Osorno, 55), Miguel Zepeda, Cuauhtemoc Blanco, Luis Hernandez.



Rivaldo has been excellent for Brazil, scoring the second goal in the final.

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SOUTH AMERICA

COPA STAYS IN BRAZIL

Samba Kings win one-sided final



BRAZIL 3
URUGUAY 0

Rivaldo scored two goals and set up a third for Ronaldo as Brazil beat Uruguay 3-0 in an embarrassingly one-sided Copa America final in Asuncion.

Rivaldo, who scored with a rare header and then a classy chip in a seven-minute first-half spell, and Ronaldo finished as joint topscorers with five goals each.

Brazil claimed the title for the second time in a row after winning in 1997 in Bolivia.

Surprise finalists Uruguay won only one game in the tournament, qualifying from the first round as one of the best third-placed teams and then winning their quarter-final and semi-final ties both after a

penalty shootout.

They progressed to the final despite resting top players such as Paolo Montero, Gustavo Poyet and Alvaro Recoba after a long season in Europe.

The game got off to a rough start with Brazil clearly determined to match their hard-tackling opponents in the vinility stakes.

Even crunching fouls in the first three minutes set the tone for a first half which finished with two players from each team booked, and a foul tally of 30.

Uruguay had slightly the better of the opening exchanges, Marcelo Zalayeta wasting an early chance when he shot instead of passing from inside the penalty area.

But two goals inside seven minutes by Rivaldo effectively settled the match for the Brazilians who never looked pressed.

In the 20th minute, Flavio Conceicao took a free kick on the left and Rivaldo headed in from an

unmarked position at the far post.

Seven minutes later, he ran onto another cross from the left by Ze Roberto and chipped the ball over goalkeeper Fabian Carini.

Uruguay, who had got through previous rounds by frustrating their opponents into submission, never looked as if they would be capable of recovering from a two-goal deficit, though they came close to pulling a goal back on the stroke of halftime.

Right-back Martin del Campo played a one-two on the edge of the penalty and struck the crossbar with his shot, then Andres Fleurquin fired over from the rebound.

It was their last real chance to save the game.

In the first minute of the second half, Rivaldo sent Ronaldo clear of the defence and the Inter Milan player scored with an emphatic left-foot shot.

Brazil had chances to increase their lead while Zalayeta missed a good chance for a Uruguayan consolation when he shot weakly at Dida, disturbing an otherwise quiet afternoon for the Brazil goalkeeper, who had a quiet afternoon.



Rivaldo really came through for the Brazilians in the final stages of the Copa and his two goals made him equal top scorer.

Past Copa winners

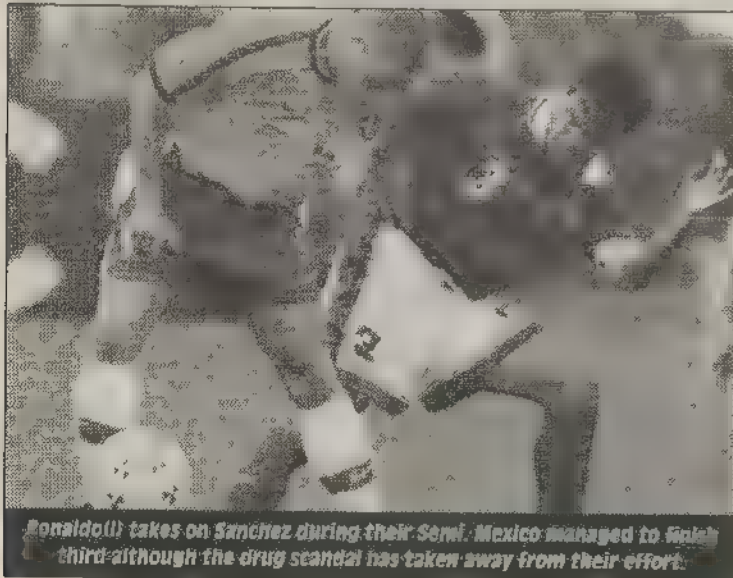
Past winners of Copa America (host nations in parentheses):

1916 (Argentina) Uruguay	1929 (Argentina) Argentina	1959 (Argentina) Argentina
1917 (Uruguay) Uruguay	1935 (Peru) Uruguay	1959 (Ecuador) Uruguay
1919 (Brazil) Brazil	1937 (Argentina) Argentina	1963 (Bolivia) Bolivia
1920 (Chile) Uruguay	1939 (Peru) Peru	1967 (Uruguay) Uruguay
1921 (Argentina) Argentina	1941 (Chile) Argentina	1975 (Rotating) Peru
1922 (Brazil) Brazil	1942 (Uruguay) Uruguay	1979 (Rotating) Paraguay
1923 (Uruguay) Uruguay	1945 (Chile) Argentina	1983 (Rotating) Uruguay
1924 (Uruguay) Uruguay	1946 (Argentina) Argentina	1987 (Argentina) Uruguay
1925 (Argentina) Argentina	1947 (Ecuador) Argentina	1989 (Brazil) Brazil
1926 (Chile) Uruguay	1949 (Brazil) Brazil	1991 (Chile) Argentina
1927 (Peru) Argentina	1953 (Peru) Paraguay	1993 (Ecuador) Argentina
	1955 (Chile) Argentina	1995 (Uruguay) Uruguay
	1956 (Uruguay) Uruguay	1997 (Bolivia) Brazil
	1957 (Peru) Argentina	1999 (Paraguay) Brazil

Mexico finish third with drugs still finishing as the number one problem

MEXICO 2
CHILE 1

Mexico put its doping controversy out of mind and beat Chile 2-1 with a late goal to claim third place in the Copa America.



Ronaldo takes on Sanchez during their Semi. Mexico managed to finish third although the drug scandal has taken away from their effort.

Miguel Zepeda headed the winner in the 86th minute, five minutes after Raul Palacios had put Chile back on level terms and seemingly set up yet another penalty shootout.

Francisco Palencia gave Mexico a 26th-minute lead, although he appeared to control the ball with his hand before scoring.

Only around 2,000 fans braved cold, blustery conditions in supposedly subtropical Asuncion to watch a match which could have marked the international farewell of Chile striker Ivan Zamorano, the 32-year-old player who has hinted he could leave the side after the competition.

Mexico, which has taken part as a guest since 1993, claimed third place for the second Copa America in a row.

It played only hours after the South American Football Confederation (CSF) imposed six-month

bans on Raul Lara and Paulo Cesar Chavez, who both failed dope tests earlier in the tournament.

Mexico's Raul Lara and Paulo Cesar Chavez were banned for six months after failing doping tests at the Copa America, the South American Football Confederation (CSF) said.

The CSF ignored a threat from the Mexican squad, who said that they would boycott this month's Confederations' Cup in their own country, as it extended the suspensions initially imposed a week ago.

Lara and Chavez were originally suspended for the rest of the Copa America after testing positive for testosterone and nandrolone respectively following a first round match against Brazil on July 3.

Late last week, the CSF announced that Lara again tested positive after his team's subsequent match against Venezuela.

The CSF said it would ask FIFA and the North and Central American and Caribbean Confederation CONCACAF to ratify the bans.

Mexico are members of CONCACAF but are taking part in the CSF-organised Copa America as guests for the fourth time running.

The new ban came day after the entire Mexican squad signed a statement backing Lara and Chavez and threatening a Confederations' walkout.

"If the players involved are not absolved before the Confederations' Cup, the members of this squad will not take part in that event as a sign of protest and a show of unconditional support," it said.

Mexico team doctor Jose Luis Serrano has already defended the pair, saying he believed the banned substances were contained in food eaten by them.

He also said the substances needed a high degree of specialisation to be administered and that they are produced naturally by the human body.

These comments were later refuted by Marco Teixeira, head of the CSF's doping commission, who said the levels found in the tests were between four and six times those to be normally expected.

Mexico went on to reach the semi-finals of the Copa America before losing to Brazil in the Semis.

They avenged the defeat to Brazil by beating Chile 2-1 in the third place play-off only hours after the decision.

The Confederations' Cup is a FIFA organised competition featuring winners of recent continental championships.

It has already suffered setbacks, having been postponed from January under pressure from European nations, who said it clashed with their domestic football programmes.

ITALY

Zidane ready to impress as Inzaghi predicts 60 of the best



Zidane wants to get back to top form next season after the high of the World Cup win.

Juventus ace Zinedine Zidane wants to put a miserable season behind him and re-discover his winning touch as the Italian football season gets underway next month.

Zidane won the World Cup final for France last year, but was a shadow of himself the following season in the Serie A while failing once again in his ambition to lift the European Cup.

The erratic playmaker, now training at a team hide-away at Chatillon in the Italian Alps, said, "What I'm interested in is cancelling out the memory of last season. It wasn't one I liked."

Insisting that he is staying with Juventus, he also backtracked on recent comments that he'd like one day to play in Spain, his wife being of Spanish origin.

"It was a mistake to admit it," he said. "It would have

been better to have kept quiet about it. You learn something every day ... perhaps there are people who want to send me away, but as long as the club wants me, I'm not moving."

Last season also ended with a knee injury and surgery for the Frenchman, who hasn't fully recovered.

"It still needs time, a couple of weeks for it to be fully back to normal," he said.

Juventus, meanwhile, need to recover from a dismal league season which left them with this summer's Intertoto tournament as their only chance of reaching the UEFA Cup.

"I'm encouraged by what I've seen so far," he said. "It's going to be tough to win the league — AC Milan, Lazio, Fiorentina, Parma and Inter have all strengthened their teams. But we are at their level."

"The important thing will be to not make the same mistakes again. But I reckon that a kick in the head every so often does you good. It brings you down to earth."

He told sports newspaper *Tuttosport*, "I want to put last season — and my problems, and Juventus' problems — behind me and to start winning. That's what I'm staying for; to win."

Juventus and Italy striker Filippo Inzaghi reckons that he and strike partner Alessandro Del Piero can score 60 goals next season and take the club back to the top of Serie A.

The pair virtually managed the feat in 1997-98, when Del Piero scored 32 goals and Inzaghi another 27; while Juventus notched its third league title in four years and its third consecutive European Cup final.

Now, after one of the worst seasons for decades, the Turin club is keen to lift itself back up off the floor, starting this weekend when they open their Intertoto campaign in Romania.

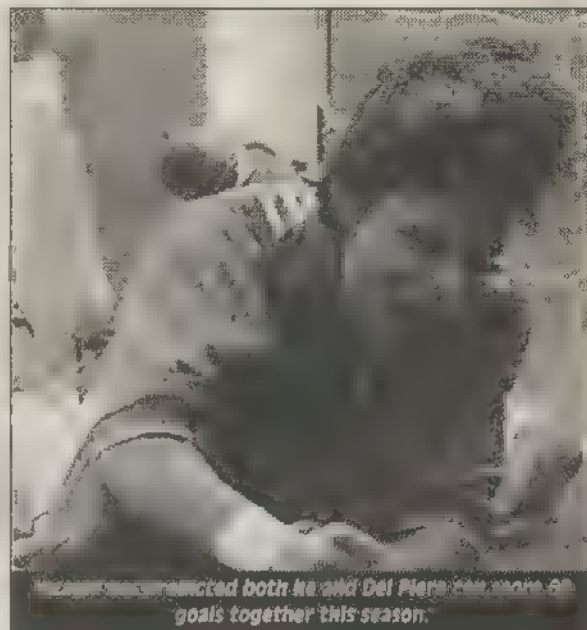
"Juventus have taught me what a wonderful thing it is to win," said the striker, whose two goals in 10 minutes failed to stop Manchester United reaching the 1999 European Cup final.

"Last year, I was left empty-handed and was pretty disappointed about it. Now I hope things can go back to the way they were."

"Del Piero, Zidane and I are capable of

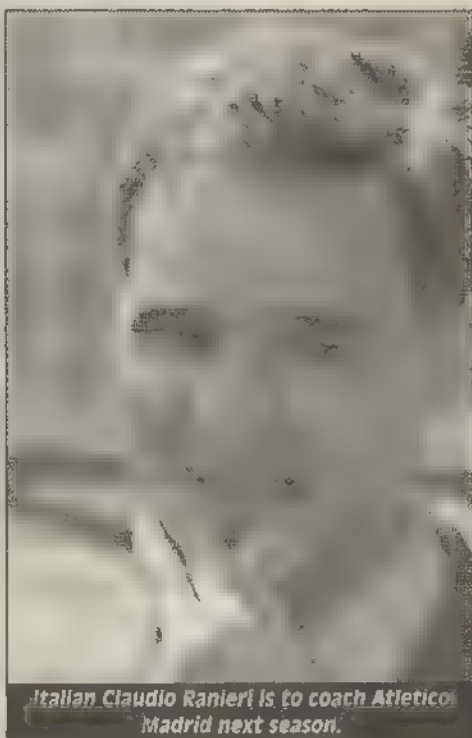
repeating the feat of two seasons ago, when we scored 60 goals," he told *Tuttosport*. "We've done it before, and we can do it again, even though it's not going to be easy."

Looking at the big-spending competition, he said: "There are a lot of other strike partnerships around next season which look great on paper," he said. "But they've never done anything like that."



Del Piero and Zidane scored both he and Del Piero can score 60 goals together this season.

Ranieri takes on the worst job in football



Italian Claudio Ranieri is to coach Atletico Madrid next season.

Claudio Ranieri has begun one of soccer's toughest jobs as he taken over as coach of Atletico Madrid — the 23rd man to hold the post in the last 12 years.

Ranieri, who last season led Valencia to a Spanish Cup final victory over his new team as well as a place in the Champions League qualifiers, arrived back in Spain late last week to replace Radomir Antic at the Madrid club.

Antic was sacked three months into his second spell at the end of last season, following a bitterly disappointing campaign that had earlier seen Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi forced out.

Ranieri is well aware that a sharp improvement on last year's 13th place league finish will be required if he is to avoid the usual fate of coaches under controversial club president, Jesus Gil.

And he is confident a change of attitude at the club can see them challenge for a Champions League place next season.

"The most important thing is that we start work now," he said. "We have to play every pre-season game believing that we can beat the best sides in the world."

"Atletico have been short of self-belief. I want players who are winners and I'll ask that they demonstrate that even in the training sessions."

He added: "Atletico Madrid have to finish in the top four. We have to be part of the Champions League, although of course that's easier said than done."

Ranieri, who joined Valencia two years ago after a four-year spell at Fiorentina, believes the return of striker Kiko Narvaez will be a major factor in the improvement of Atletico fortunes.

The club's slide last season coincided with an ankle injury for Kiko that kept him out for the last six months of the campaign and Ranieri acknowledged: "Kiko is Atletico Madrid."

"He's a great player and I hope to have him back by October. He's very important to us."

One player who will not be part of Ranieri's new regime is Juninho, who was told last month to start looking for another club.

The Brazilian has still to sort out his future but Ranieri confirmed

"He's a great player but it would be better for him to leave."

BYE BYE ANELKA, WE DON'T WANT YOU ANYMORE

Italy's Lazio says it has definitively broken off tortuous talks with English premier league club Arsenal to sign French striker Nicolas Anelka.

"Lazio has decided to withdraw definitively from the negotiations to buy Anelka from Arsenal," club president Sergio Cragnotti told reporters.

"All dialogue has broken off between the two sides. We did everything we could to conclude this deal, to reach an agreement with the English team. But we couldn't get anywhere."

Talks between Lazio and Arsenal have snapped on and off in recent days as the sides sought to bridge the gap between Arsenal's asking price and the Rome club's offer price.

Arsenal wanted 22 million pounds (\$34 million) for Anelka, who joined the London side for just 500,000 pounds (\$783,900) in 1997.

Lazio, seeking to replace Inter Milan-bound striker Christian Vieri, offered around 18 million pounds (\$28.21 million).

Anelka has made it clear he does not want to go back to Arsenal next season, having said the English media make life impossible for him in London.

"We are very sorry and perhaps the player will be even more sorry since he expressed the desire to come to Lazio," Cragnotti said.

"If Arsenal is this stubborn, they must have got other offers. Obviously there's someone else."

Cragnotti said he did not know if Lazio's Serie A rivals Juventus were making a counter offer for Anelka.

But the unsettled striker rejected a transfer to Turin.

"I continue to say I want to go to Lazio. I haven't changed my mind," he told *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

"I'll say it now and I won't say it again: I'm not going to Juventus. It's Lazio or nothing. And nothing means not Arsenal and not Juventus."

Massimo Moratti, owner of Inter Milan, was re-appointed president of the Serie A club.

Moratti, who stepped down in May at the end of a disastrous season, was re-elected by the club's board of directors, Inter said in a statement.

Moratti, who has spent a fortune trying to recreate his father's legendary Inter of the 1960s, continued to be the most powerful man at the club after his resignation and has guided the team's recent overhaul.

It has included the record \$50 million dollar signing of Italy striker Christian Vieri from Lazio as well as the hiring of former Juventus coach Marcello Lippi.



Anelka says it's Lazio or bust but by the looks of it, it's bust.

EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

Yugoslavia returns with a bang

Partizan Belgrade marked Yugoslavia's return to international soccer after NATO's 78-day air campaign against the country with a 6-0 drubbing of Estonia's Flora Tallinn in the first qualifying round of the European Champions League.

The result means that Partizan, who should easily survive this week's second leg in Estonia, are virtually guaranteed a place in the second qualifying round of the competition and a fierce two-legged tie with Croatian runners-up Rijeka.

The Yugoslav champions got off the mark in the 12th minute, when skipper Sasa Ilic placed the ball past Tallinn's Tomas Tohver.

Striker Milorad Pekovic made a dream debut for the club with two goals, the first coming in the 25th minute when he unleashed a fierce shot into the top corner.

Partizan went 3-0 up in the 36th minute when Vladimir Ivic headed in from close range.

Teenage striker Mateja Kezman marked a fine performance with an outstanding goal in the 56th minute, outpacing two defenders before slotting

the ball home under the advancing keeper.

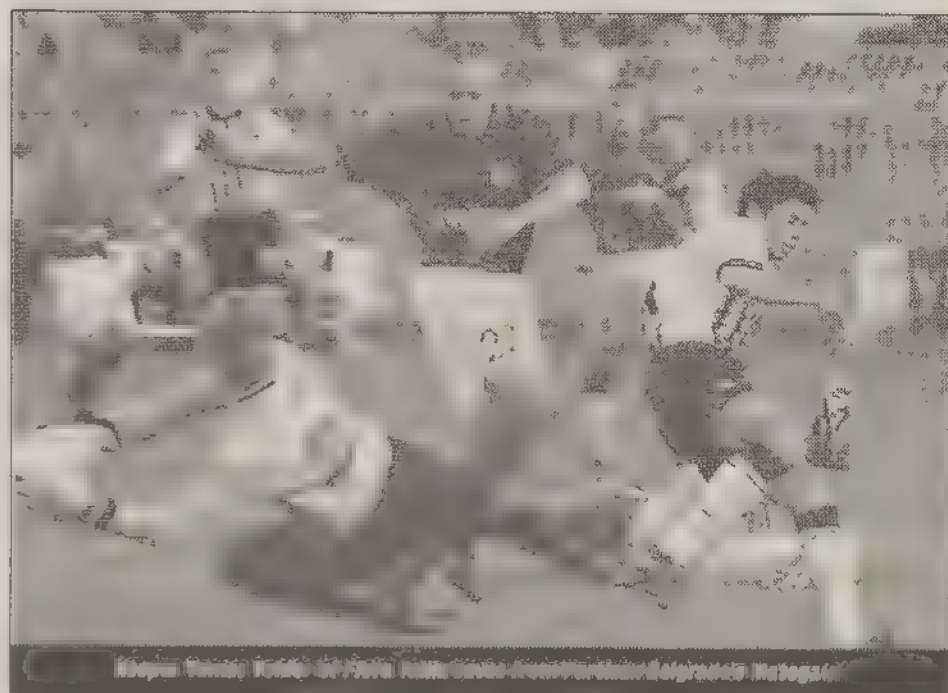
Kezman kept tormenting the Tallinn defence and Pekovic got his second after the youngster's dazzling run down the right.

The goal of the day, however, went to Ivic, who completed his own double after leaving three defenders flat-footed inside the penalty box.

The Partizan match was one of eight in the opening round of the competition which has started just seven weeks after Manchester United won last season's final in Barcelona.

The other big winners on the night were Zimbru Chisinau of Moldova who crushed St Patrick's Athletic of Ireland 5-0 in Dublin to guarantee themselves a second qualifying round tie against Dinamo Tbilisi of Georgia.

Glentoran of Northern Ireland, who lost 3-0 at Litex Lovech of Bulgaria were unhappy with the way the match was handled by Yugoslav referee Zoran Arsich and lodged a complaint to UEFA about his officiating.



REAL GIVEN A CUP BYE

Real Madrid will receive a special dispensation to miss the first round of the Spanish Cup to enable them to compete in FIFA's inaugural eight-team World Club Championship in January in Brazil.

Real Madrid are invited as reigning world club champions — they beat Brazilian outfit Vasco da Gama to claim that accolade last season in the Intercontinental Cup Final in Tokyo — the match which has traditionally determined the title of world club champions.

They will be joined by the champions of the six FIFA confederations — South America (CONMEBOL), Asia (AFC), Africa (CAF), Europe (UEFA), Oceania and North/Central America/Caribbean (CONCACAF). The eighth team invited will be the Brazilian champions as representatives of the host nation.

In a separate development the Spanish league has abolished its promotion/relegation play-offs. Three teams will automatically drop from the top flight to be replaced by three from the second division.

Reigning Spanish champions Barcelona will launch their defense with a home match at the Nou Camp against Real Zaragoza, while Real, runners-up to their eternal rivals, will visit Real Mallorca, who finished third, on day one.

Real Madrid's chances of prising the Primera Liga title away from Barcelona next year will face an early test after it was handed an away day at Mallorca on the opening day of the 1999-2000 campaign.

Real was beaten 2-1 on its last visit to Palma and will hardly relish such a tough assignment on the opening day of the new season, which kicks off on August 22.

The draw for the new season, made in Madrid has given champions Barcelona an easier looking task, as they play Real Zaragoza in their own Nou Camp stadium.

Numancia, who will be playing in the first division for the first time, have also been treated kindly by the fixture computer, which has given them a relatively undaunting home clash with Valladolid.

Rayo Vallecano, also promoted from division two last year, have been given a dream local derby at Atletico Madrid.

The other new faces in the primera liga, Sevilla and Malaga, have home games against Real Sociedad and Espanyol respectively.

Coach John Toshack says he still needs to make three new signings for Real Madrid to make a serious challenge on domestic and European fronts.

An early assault on the transfer market has already

seen Real secure six new players for the coming season, among them former Liverpool midfielder Steve McManaman, Bosnian forward Elvir Balic and Spanish internationals Michel Salgado and Ivan Helguera.

But Toshack, who has returned from his summer holiday to start work with his new-look squad, is hoping for more new arrivals before the season starts on August 22.



John Toshack still needs more men at Real

"We absolutely have to strengthen the squad," Toshack insisted. "If you look at a club like Chelsea they have something like 19 foreign players on their books — something unheard of in English football. You need that kind of squad these days."

"We definitely need to strengthen the forward line," added Toshack. "With (Fernando) Morientes and Balic I'll sleep well at nights but we have to be prepared for every eventuality."

"We're also looking for a central defender and there's the possibility of a new goalkeeper — which could become a necessity." Real is looking at Olympique Marseille striker Florian Maurice as a possible addition to the forward line, with Valladolid's Brazilian center back Julio Cesar the latest target for the defense.



Lothar Matthäus has had both good and bad news during the week.

Bayern Munich libero Lothar Matthäus has said that he would captain Germany at the Confederations' Cup tournament from July 24 to August 4 in Mexico.

The 38-year-old, who captained his country to the 1990 World Cup, will take over from Oliver Bierhoff.

The AC Milan striker has asked to be left out of the squad to prepare for the new season in Italy.

"We have a team with very little experience and nobody would have understood if a player with five caps had worn the captain's armband," Matthäus said.

Ribbeck is without several key players, notably Bierhoff and Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn who is injured. He has picked five newcomers in his 20-man squad.

Lothar Matthäus and his wife, former Miss Switzerland Lohia Morena, have divorced.

According to German newspaper Bild, the marital split, Matthäus' second, has cost the 38-year-old Bayern Munich sweeper custody of his six-year-old child, Loris, as well as a house in Switzerland, and around \$500,000.

The former world player of the year, who looks set to add to his 136 caps after being selected in the Germany squad for July's Confederations Cup, is leaving Bayern next March to play in the United States for the New York/New Jersey MetroStars.

MATTHAEUS TO CAPTAIN GERMANY IN CONFED CUP

German coach Erich Ribbeck has assured Matthäus that he can play in Euro 2000 even if he leaves to play club soccer in the United States.

Bayern Munich striker Elber, recovering from a serious knee injury, hopes to be fit in time to start the new season against Hamburg SV on August 14.

"If everything works all right, I will be fit to play against Hamburg," Elber, who has been sidelined since sustaining the injury in a league match last March, told Sport Bild magazine in an interview.

"I can't wait," he added. "I can't live without football."

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, however, was a little more cautious.

"I don't think he will be able to start the season," Hitzfeld said. "I am realistic and I know he still has a long way to go. He needs another few weeks before he is in top shape and can play in the Bundesliga."

The seven German Bundesliga clubs certain to play in Europe this season have agreed to give some of the money they will earn from television rights to the 11 other Bundesliga sides.

The seven agreed at a meeting of the league commission of the German Soccer Federation (DFB) that the clubs not taking part in a European club competition would get 1.5 million marks (\$781,700) each.

Champions Bayern Munich and runners-up Bayer Leverkusen will play in the expanded Champions League while Hertha Berlin and Borussia Dortmund will enter its qualifying round.

Werder Bremen, Kaiserslautern and VfL Wolfsburg will enter the new-style UEFA Cup.

Compiled by

EUROPE

IN BRIEF

Benfica of Portugal and Norwegian league leaders Rosenborg Trondheim have settled their row over the transfer of striker Sigurd Rushfeldt to the Lisbon club.

"Everything has been resolved between the two clubs in terms of the payment and bank guarantees," Benfica spokesman Jose Teixeira said.

"The player has chosen a house near Lisbon and has passed medical tests," he said.

Rushfeldt, 26, a target for a number of leading clubs, agreed to join Benfica.

He was reportedly called back to Norway by Rosenborg who claimed that Benfica had indicated they would not finalise the 30 million crown (\$3.8 million) deal by the deadline of July 31.

This was denied by Benfica who said the money would be paid and paraded Rushfeldt in front of 3,000 fans at training last week.

Teixeira said Rushfeldt had left for Norway to take a short holiday and was due to join Benfica for training in Austria late last week.

Rushfeldt finished top scorer in Norway with 25 goals in the 1997 season and 27 goals in 1998. He scored 15 goals in 13 games before agreeing to move to Portugal.

Hertha Berlin's German international defender Marko Rehmer will undergo knee surgery in Vail, Colorado, the Berlin club said.

Rehmer, 27, who joined Hertha from Hansa Rostock last month, hopes to fit in time to start the German Bundesliga championship on August 13.

Greek champions Olympiakos has agreed to terms for the transfer of Slovakian midfielder Zlato Zahovic from Portuguese champions Porto.

"There is total agreement on the transfer," Porto's director Adelino Caldeira told reporters after talks with representatives of Olympiakos.

The 28-year-old international was due to visit Athens to sign a four-year contract. Caldeira declined to give terms of the transfer, but local papers said it was worth \$10 million for Porto.

Last month Spanish club Valencia said they had agreed with Zahovic a \$5 million four-year contract, but the transfer was not approved by Porto's management.

Last week Olympiakos signed Barcelona's Brazilian World Cup midfielder Giovanni on a three-year contract worth around \$6.1 million.

French champion Girondins Bordeaux has signed 14-year-old Croatian Filip Marcic from Hajduk Split, the club announced.

Bordeaux beat Italy's Juventus in the race for the talented young striker, who was already a member of Hajduk's under-17 side.

Bordeaux's youth scheme, run by former French World Cup defender Patrick Battiston, bore excellent results last season with victory in both the French under-15 and under-17 championships.

"The titles are not an end. The goal is to produce competitive teams in which players can progress to play one day play with the professionals at the Stade Lesure," Battiston said.

"At the same time we do scouting and recruiting which now goes beyond French borders. But 90 percent of the players in the under-17 championship side are from the (Bordeaux) region."

Guinean striker Pascal Feindouno, a product of the youth scheme, has signed his first professional contract with the club. Feindouno scored the winner in Bordeaux's 3-2 victory at Paris St Germain that secured the first division title in May.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has asked the Hungarian Football Association to call an urgent meeting to sort out its finances.

Blatter sent the F.A. a letter after FIFA's Executive Committee learned from the Hungarian Sports Ministry that the association's accounts had not been handled properly.

Sandor Berzi, general secretary of the F.A. said that officials would decide the date of the meeting today (Tuesday).

The main point on the agenda would be an auditors' report on the association's finances, but he gave no details.

FIFA and UEFA would attend the meeting with a delegation of observers.



WORLD CLUB CHAMPS TO BE A ONE OFF

The World Club Championship, which forced Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United to pull out of the FA Cup, will be a one-off event if Europe's football chief gets his way.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter's dream of a permanent elite club tournament to mirror the World Cup was dealt a shattering blow when Lennart Johansson, the UEFA president, said Europe may not be prepared to take part if the event lasts longer than a year.

Johansson, pipped by underdog Blatter in the voting for the top job with the world governing body, said: "We have to listen to our clubs. For this once, we are going to Brazil out of loyalty to the football family but we cannot guarantee participation in the future."

"I'm extremely disappointed that United are not taking part in the FA Cup. We cannot and will not, in the future, force our clubs to take part, just as we oppose FIFA's idea of a World Cup every two years."

The inaugural club championship, to be played in Brazil next January, is Blatter's brainchild. United go as European champions, but must miss defending the FA Cup.

Johansson also said it was time the World Cup followed the European Championship and forced the defending champions to qualify for the next finals instead of gaining automatic entry.

"Four years is a long time and form is not always the same at the end of the next period," he said.

The FA has disclosed that no more money will

become available to fund the campaign to bring the 2006 World Cup to this country.

Last week FIFA said the vote for 2006 was being put back from March to July next year to allow each of its six Continental confederations to study the five bids.

But new chairman Geoff Thompson said the FA would not be adding to the £9.42million budget.

Meanwhile, UEFA is working on a plan which could change the face of sport in Europe. It wants the European Union to remove certain powers from the courts and place it back in the hands of sport.

Sport is angry at the way athletes can challenge decisions. UEFA wants sport to have dispensations from the laws which govern business in Europe. Should UEFA succeed, governing bodies would be

Germany midfielder Michael Ballack is joining Bayer Leverkusen from Bundesliga club Kaiserslautern, a Leverkusen official said.

Leverkusen financial manager Wolfgang Holzhaeuser said Ballack, 22, would move to Leverkusen after the German squad returned from the Confederations Cup tournament from July 24 to Aug. 4 in Mexico.

Ballack, who has one cap for Germany, will sign a four-year contract for a transfer fee of some eight million marks.

He had already agreed to join Leverkusen from the 2000-2001 season but Kaiserslautern had previously refused Leverkusen's offers for an early move.

Leverkusen manager Reiner Calmund was quoted as saying that last season's Bundesliga runners-up had eventually agreed to pay Kaiserslautern the asking price.

Clubs to go on float

Spanish soccer clubs will have the chance to follow the lead of some of Europe's other major teams starting in 2002 when they will be allowed to float on the stock market, the Spanish government announced late last week.

Under new rules for limited sporting companies, the government has also opened the way for foreigners to invest in Spanish clubs.

But no individual will be able to own more than five percent of more than one club and the acquisition of 25 percent of a team by any one person will need sports council approval.

The changes to ownership rules will come into force soon but stock market flotations may only begin from Jan. 1, 2002.

The government said clubs needed a transition period to demonstrate the necessary accountability and transparency in their financial dealings.

Several Spanish clubs have been lobbying hard for changes to the law to follow the likes of Manchester United by going public to raise cash.

The changes will not affect Spain's two largest clubs, however. Real Madrid and Barcelona are both owned by their members and have promised to resist the move to become publicly-traded companies.

able to set their own rules without fear of legal challenge.

The proposals also include a request to recognise national boundaries, spelling an end to a European Super League without UEFA approval.

inception in 1959.

Smaller clubs said they could not afford quality foreign players.

In contrast, the larger teams said the limit on foreign players hampered them in European competitions and artificially inflated the cost of the best home-grown talent.

BOSKOV TO LEAD YUGOSLAVIA TO EURO 2000

Vujadin Boskov will replace Milan Zivadinovic as the coach of the Yugoslav national team, Yugoslav Football Association (FSJ) general secretary Branko Bulatovic said.

"There is absolute consensus in the association that Boskov is the right man for the job," said Bulatovic, adding that the choice was certain to be formally approved at a meeting of the FSJ executive board on July 24.

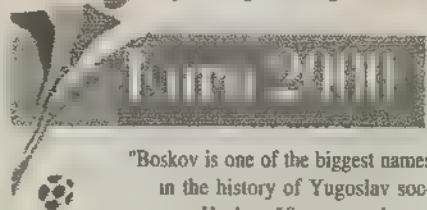
He said the entire FSJ management as well as team stars were in favour of Boskov.

Bulatovic said Boskov had, as a member of the FSJ's executive board in charge of the national team, been present at all matches and training sessions for the past two years.

"He is already intimately tied to the team, and will simply make a step up to become the coach," said Bulatovic.

"Boskov accepted the offer without thinking - our conversation lasted five minutes," he said, adding that

Boskov would lead the team in the Euro 2000 qualifying stage and the finals, if Yugoslavia goes through.



"Boskov is one of the biggest names in the history of Yugoslav soccer. He has 58 caps and won numerous national and European honors as a coach with clubs in Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy, including the Cup Winners Cup with Sampdoria," said Bulatovic.

Zivadinovic, who replaced Slobodan Santrac and spent less than a year as national coach, was sacked on Tuesday after he went on a controversial vacation and signed a lucrative deal with Saudi Arabian first division club Al Nasr of Riyadh.

Zivadinovic's surprise move left the Yugoslav

team in a lurch after the postponement of four Euro 2000 matches due to NATO's 78-day bombing campaign of the country.

Despite the political upheaval in Yugoslavia over recent months, the team is well placed to qualify for the European finals in Belgium and the Netherlands next year.

They top group eight having won all three matches played so far, and face four crucial qualifiers packed into just three weeks in August and September.

They host bitter rivals Croatia on August 18 and then face the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on September 1.

The match was originally due to be played on June 5, but UEFA postponed it after the Irish authorities refused to issue visas to the Yugoslavs during the NATO campaign.

Yugoslavia also play the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on Sept. 4 and 8.

EUROPE

ATLETICO AND REAL BOLSTER SQUADS

French international striker Florian Maurice looks set to sign for Real Madrid from Olympique Marseille in the next few days.

Directors of both clubs are scheduled to meet early in the week to complete a 60 million franc (\$10 million) transfer of the former Olympique Lyon and Paris St Germain striker.

"I'm not in direct contact with Real Madrid," Maurice said. "That doesn't mean the clubs are not in discussion."

Marseille coach Roland Courbis left Maurice out of his side's pre-season friendly against Lyon at Avignon,

saying: "I don't want to risk an injury by making him play this match when his mind's not 100 percent involved."

Atletico Madrid have clinched the signing of Portuguese midfielder Hugo Leal from Benfica, Spanish newspapers reported.

Leal, whose performances for Benfica last season earned him his first full international call-up, has signed an eight-year contract, the reports said.

He is set to replace Juninho in the Atletico midfield after the Brazilian was told by new coach Caludio Ranieri he can leave the club.

McMANAMAN TO FLOURISH AT REAL: CARLOS

Steve McManaman is destined to flourish under John Toshack at Real Madrid according to Brazilian international Roberto Carlos.

The alliance between the £12million Englishman and the Welshman recruited from the misery of a fast-souring job in Turkey is a partnership that Carlos senses will be beneficial in making Real Madrid a force in Spain and beyond once more.

Of course, it is a different style of football in Spain to the type McManaman has been used to playing with Liverpool in England, said Real's affable Brazilian.

"McManaman will be made welcome at the club, although it is natural he will find it difficult at the beginning."

"But from what I have seen of McManaman on the television, I know he is a very, very good player. His adaptation in Spain will be very fast, I am certain."

In sharp contrast to the stories of unrest that had been leaked by sources within Real after Toshack's appointment, Carlos views the Welshman as integral to the club's ambition.

"Toshack is proving a good coach," said Carlos, who is expected to play a pivotal role for Brazil against Uruguay in the final of Copa America in the

Paraguayan capital of Asuncion tonight.

"At the beginning of the season some of the players at Madrid were not playing so good. Now, under Toshack, all the team is together and playing the same way. We finished second in the championship and we will start the new season with optimism."

Carlos will be able to offer Toshack valuable information when Real Madrid, along with Manchester United, of course, travel to Brazil in January to dispute ownership of the politically-hot new FIFA competition, the World Club Championship.

Carlos grew up 60 miles outside Sao Paulo, the sprawling metropolis of 15 million people that is to host the competition, along with Rio de Janeiro, at the height of a brutal Brazilian summer.

At 26, he is experienced beyond his years and beyond the 64 caps he has won for his country.

He was the room-mate who alerted the world that Ronaldo had a convulsive fit in the hours preceding Brazil's appointment with France in the World Cup Final in Paris last summer.

His response enabled the doctors to attend to Ronaldo. "We lived together for 53 days at the World Cup and Ronaldo is like a person in my family now," Carlos said.

"Here in the Copa America, Ronaldo is much, much better than he was one year ago and he's trying to be better still, both physically and mentally."

In common with Brazil's other European-based stars — Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Rivaldo, Amoroso and Ronaldo — Roberto Carlos will be missing when coach Wanderley Luxemburgo takes his team to Mexico tomorrow evening to begin their campaign in the Confederations Cup against Germany on Saturday.

Instead, Carlos will be rewarded with a two-week vacation after tonight's game against Uruguay, and he will visit his family before returning to Madrid in August.



Matthaeus and Paulo Sergio

Bayern Munich took revenge over Werder Bremen by beating them 2-1 in the German League Cup final.

The German champions, who were beaten on penalties by Bremen in the German Cup final last month, pocketed 2.5 million marks (\$1.31 million) for their third consecutive win in the traditional pre-season tournament.

New signing Paulo Sergio, who joined Bayern this summer from AS Roma for 12 million marks, opened the scoring in the 34th minute.

The Brazilian midfielder flicked the ball over Bremen keeper Frank Rost from 10 meters out.

Left-back Michael Tarnat made it 2-0 from a free kick two minutes before the break.

Bremen reduced the arrears through striker Soeren Seidel in the 56th minute.

European Cup finalists Bayern were missing several key players including playmaker and new captain Stefan Effenberg and Germany goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, both injured.

Bremen international striker Marco Bode had to pull out of the final because of an illness which makes him a doubtful starter for the Confederations Cup tournament from July 24 to August 4 in Mexico.

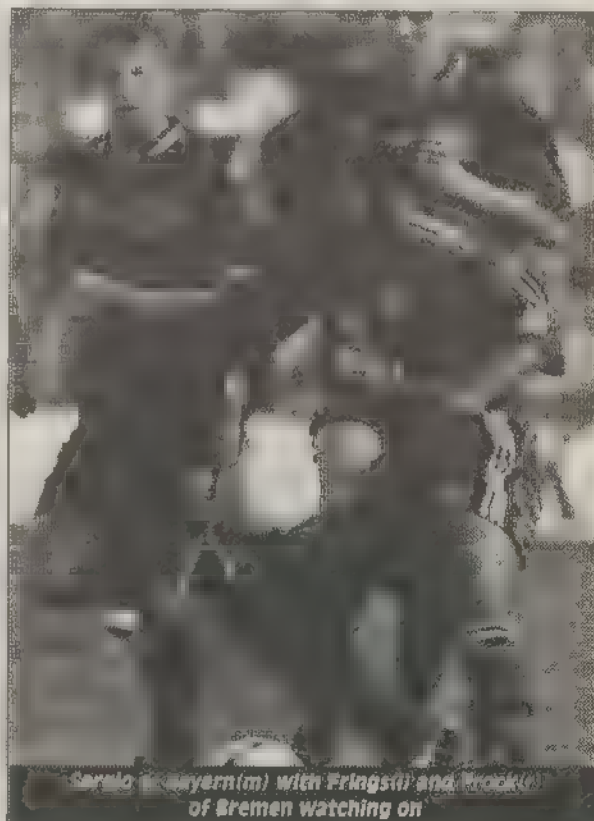
Bayern start the defense of their German title against Hamburg SV on August 14.

REVENGE IS SO SWEET FOR BAYERN

German referees have been asked to book players who flop to draw a foul.

Eugen Strigel, who is in charge of teaching Bundesliga referees, told them at a meeting on Saturday to show the yellow card to players who take a fall in the hope of a penalty.

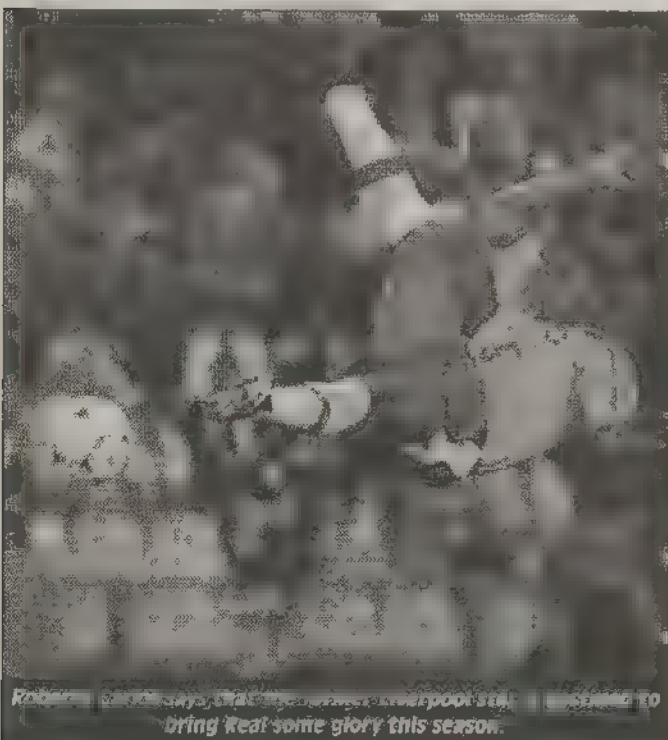
"Before, referees were left to decide what the sanc-



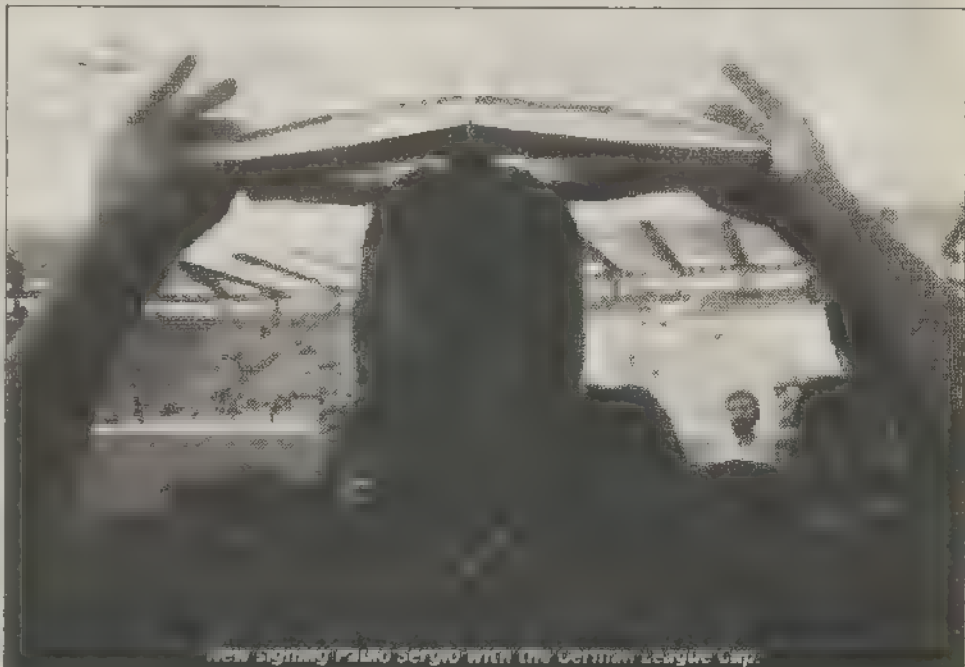
Paulo Sergio (m) with Frings (l) and Tarnat (r) of Bremen watching on

tion was in such cases," he said. "Now, it will have to be a yellow card."

The German first division championship resumes on August 13.



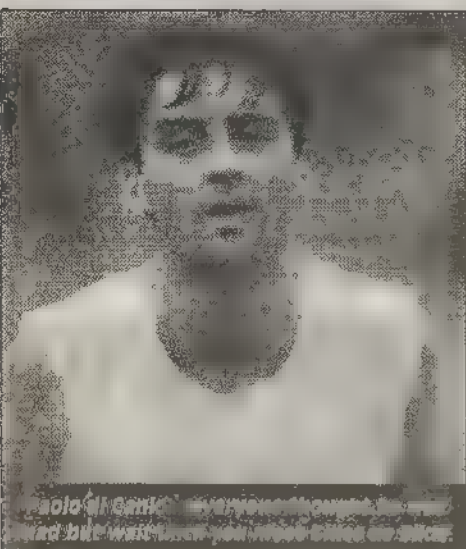
Roberto Carlos says that Toshack will bring Real some glory this season.



New signing Paulo Sergio with the German League Cup.

UK

THE BEAST OF BELGIUM ARRIVES



join PSV Eindhoven from Anderlecht soon after, helping them win the Dutch title.

De Bilde's robust pursuit of goals, which has won him 17 international caps, will not worry Wilson.

Indeed, it is one of the reasons the Wednesday manager has snapped him up from PSV, along with £2m Dutch striker Gerald Sibon from Ajax.

Wilson, a hardy midfielder in his playing days, famously condemned his Wednesday side as 'Fancy Dans' after a Worthington Cup defeat by Cambridge last season, with Di Canio and Benito Carbone topping the suspects list.

Now, the Wednesday boss is preparing a Premiership side that mixes steel with flair — and recently responded enthusiastically to the first mention of De Bilde's notorious aggression.

'It's not a problem, not a problem whatsoever,' he said. 'In fact, I'm going to encourage it, because I think we need a bit of spirit in the club. I think Gilles will give us that. He's very direct and goes in where it hurts.'

Wilson will nevertheless hope that the 28-year-old stops short of the moment of madness that saw him fracture Krist Portie's cheekbone and nose, as well as bruising his retina, when Aalst played Anderlecht three-and-a-half years ago.

De Bilde was arrested after the match and held in the cells overnight. He was sitting out his suspension when PSV pipped Feyenoord to his signature after a legal battle to establish that the ban did not count in Holland.

A quietly-spoken former immigration clerk, De Bilde claimed that the incident with Portie was a spur-of-the-moment reaction never to be repeated.

When, in his early twenties, he was given a two-year suspended sentence after attacking two scout leaders, but he said of the Portie assault, 'It was an accident and is part of the past. It was nothing to do with my mentality.'

'I had a bad reaction turning around. I've never had a problem before or after. I always have the mentality to win.'

'I'm a bad loser — I hate to lose. I tell you, it was only an accident. You don't have to look for something more. There's nothing behind it, it just happened, that's all.'

But wasn't a three-month ban a harsh penalty for an accident? 'No. I had to be punished for that, because it's not something to do. But I've had my punishment and it's in the past.'

'I've spoken to Krist. We were not friends, but we knew each other. For him it was difficult, too. I went around to his

place. I may have had a reputation for a few months, but it happened three years ago. It was just once, it's not every year.'

De Bilde was a target for Chelsea last season, but having resisted the lure of the Premiership once, he was more inclined to move this time after losing his PSV place to the emerging Ruud Van Nistelrooij.

'The president did not want me to go,' he added, 'but I'm not 18 or 35. I need to be playing.'

Both De Bilde and 25-year-old Sibon were tempted by the Premiership's soaring reputation, as well as four-year deals which put them amongst the club's highest

Their arrival at Hillsborough takes the heat off 21-year-old £1m signing Richard Cresswell and also some of the sting out of Carbone's contract dispute.

Wilson said, 'We had to consolidate last season and stop leaking goals. That took something away from our attacking outlook, but we're aiming to return to the fluid, entertaining style expected of Wednesday teams.'

Wilson insisted that he was happy for Carbone to stay at Hillsborough — as long as he signs a new contract.

The Italian, who will be available on a free transfer under the Bosman Ruling next summer, was put on the transfer list last week and Wilson said, 'The longer it goes on, the more our asset dwindles away. If he wants to stay, then fine. But for him to remain out of contract is not feasible.'

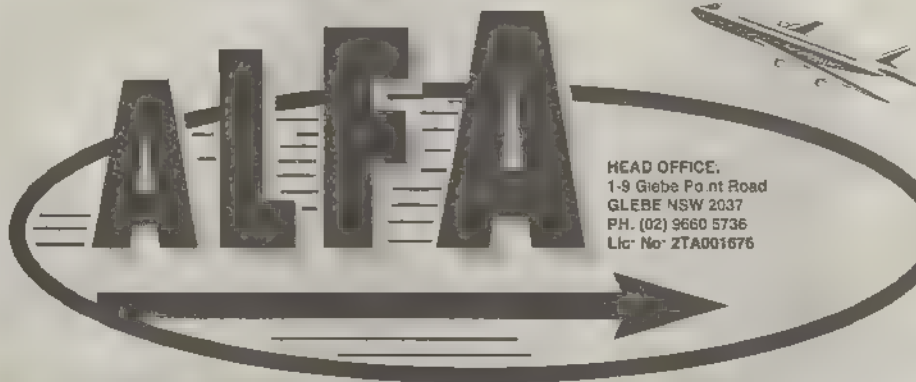
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SHEARER TO THE RESCUE

Michael Bridges has turned to close friend Alan Shearer to help decide his future.

Sunderland's 20-year-old striker is expected to be given the all-clear to open talks with Leeds United after turning down a move to Spurs a week ago.

Leeds boss David O'Leary is ready to pay 4million pounds for Bridges who was discovered by Jack Hixon, the same scout who unearthed England skipper Shearer.

Bridges looks to have no future at Sunderland after being frozen out by boss Peter Reid, who is furious with the youngster for failing to agree to a new four-year deal with the club.

He has been friends with Shearer for several years and is part of the same Tony Stephens management stable that looks after the affairs of the Newcastle striker.

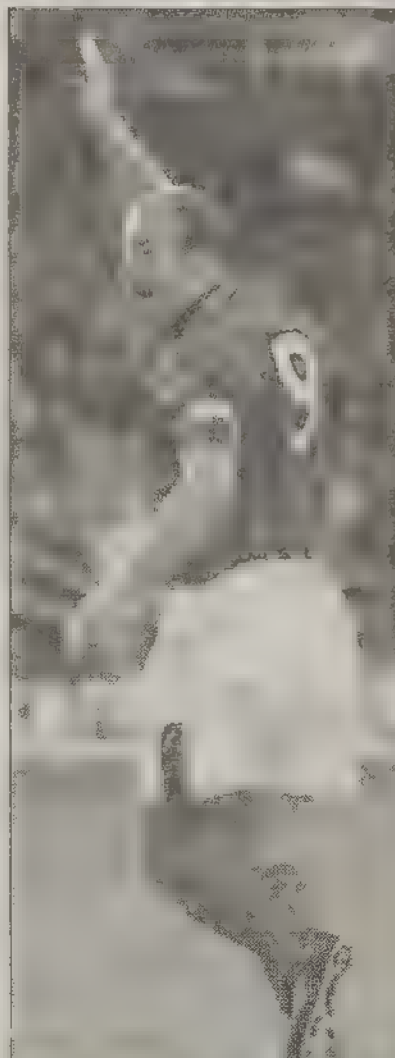
A close friend of Bridges said, 'He faces a big decision over his career in the next few days and he's likely to talk to Alan before deciding on his future.'

'Alan always makes an effort to ring Michael on a regular basis and it's a massive boost for him to have someone of that standing to help advise him.'

Bridges looked all set to join Spurs two weeks ago but the deal collapsed because the youngster could not agree to personal terms with George Graham.

He was left out of the large Sunderland squad which left for Denmark on a pre-season tour and clearly has no future with the newly-promoted Division One champions.

O'Leary is keen to sign him, providing he can raise 1.5m pounds with the sale of unwanted Dutch striker Clyde Wijnhard to First Division big-spenders, Huddersfield Town.



Shearer can help with the hard decisions facing Bridges

Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

LIVERPOOL SELLS OUT IN THE HOPE OF FINDING GLORY

English Premier League side Liverpool have sold 9.9 percent of an enlarged share capital to British media and hotels group, Granada for 22 million pounds (\$34.24 million) to help the soccer club return to former glories.

The deal, described as a unique partnership by Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry, will see all of the money going towards developing the playing side of the club.

There will be 20 million pounds (\$31.13 million) available to the team's French manager Gerard Houllier.

Some will go towards paying the 16.1 million pounds (\$25.06 million) Liverpool have already spent on new players this northern summer, with the rest being invested in the club's football academy.

The partnership allows for Granada, which owns a third of British commercial television network ITV, to act as Liverpool's agent and consultant in merchandising, publishing, electronic media rights and catering. But it will not give them first option on future television rights.

Granada will also receive one seat on the Liverpool board for their investment.

Parry, who believes the partnership is an excellent move for the club, said: "We haven't sold our birth right and it is a relatively small stake. It's not a takeover."

"We keep our independence, we have got some money while at the same time we have people with tremendous expertise. They will do the bits they are good at and they don't want to interfere on the football side. It frees us up to concentrate on the football and it's extremely good news in that respect."

He said Liverpool had been forced to move into the 21st century to allow them to compete with Europe's biggest clubs.

"You may not like the way the world is going. You may wish it to be like the 1970's but it isn't and if we are to be the best in Europe again we

have to compete off the pitch as well as on the pitch," Parry said.

"The rightful place for Liverpool is on top of the pile and we felt we couldn't get there on our own. We had to respond, we had to bring in some investment, and rather than simply get a cash investment we (felt we) should look for a strategic partnership."

Parry also stressed the deal did not allow Granada future rights to show Liverpool matches live.

"They don't have any call on our future TV rights, they are coming in as a manager of our rights. If they choose to bid for the rights we have

provisions in place to ensure there is no conflicts of interest."

"With the internet and burgeoning digital market, we think there are even more opportunities now to exploit TV and broadcasting rather than just broadcasting live matches."

Liverpool chairman David Moores has not sold any of his shares as part of the deal and remains the majority shareholder with 51.4 percent.

But the enlarged share capital has seen Liverpool create 3,482 new ordinary shares.

This represents a price of 6,318 pounds a share, valuing Liverpool at 220 million pounds (\$342.8 million).

HAMANN AT ANFIELD?

German international Dietmar Hamann is on the verge of becoming Gerard Houllier's seventh summer signing, after both Liverpool and Newcastle agreed a £7.5 million fee for the star player.

The talented midfielder, ironically sent off in his last visit to Anfield, just needs to agree personal terms to finalise the deal.

He is seen by Houllier as the ideal replacement for Paul Ince, who is locked in talks with Middlesbrough after being told he had no future with the Merseysiders.

Liverpool's executive vice-chairman Peter Robinson confirmed the club had spoken to Hamann and were very interested in signing the volatile midfielder.

"Newcastle United gave us permission to speak to Dietmar Hamann's advisers and it was established during this meeting that he would be happy to come to Liverpool if we could agree terms with Newcastle," Robinson said.

"We are currently trying to do that."

Houllier was given a financial boost when Granada bought a stake in the club, making £20million available for team rebuilding.

Newcastle's signing of Kieron Dyer, who plays a similar role to Hamann, has pushed the German out of Ruud Gullit's first team plans, and the German has also had a public disagreement with the former Chelsea manager for some time.

He had been linked several times with Arsenal and a move back to Germany.



O'NEILL FURIOUS AT PLAYERS TRANSFER REQUEST

Leicester City manager Martin O'Neill hit out at club stalwart Steve Walsh after the defender was put on the transfer list at his own request.

O'Neill is angry at the way the 34-year-old has conducted himself over the past 12 months.

Walsh, who has been at Leicester since 1986, is up for sale after asking for a move on three occasions in a year.

O'Neill said: "We received a written transfer request from Steve on the opening day of pre-season training."

"It is with regret that the club has now decided to grant Steve this request as this is the third time he has asked to leave in the last 12 months."

"In fact, his second request came just three days after the Worthington (League) Cup final against Tottenham (in March) and just before transfer deadline day, when he wished to join Aston Villa."

"That occasion surprised and disappointed me because we had far from secured our Premiership status for another season."

"Steve was given an improved two-year contract last August and everything that he and his agent asked for, he received."

Walsh struggled with injury last season, making just 28 appearances during the 1998-99 campaign.

He did not start a single game after asking for a

transfer following the League Cup final loss on March 21.

Lawyers acting for Scotland coach Craig Brown were expected to serve a 500,000 pound (\$760,000) defamation writ on a Sunday newspaper over allegations that he is a religious bigot.

The papers were set to be served on the News of the World which claimed that Brown sang the anti-Catholic song "Billy Boys" in a message left on the answering machine of a woman friend, Lynda Slaven.

Solicitor Rod McKenzie, of law firm Harper McLeod, said that unless the newspaper offered a full apology and retraction, defamation proceedings would be launched seeking "substantial" damages—believed to be around 500,000 pounds.

The newspaper has said they stand by their report, and will defend themselves "vigorously" against any legal action.



Scottish coach Craig Brown is serving a defamation writ on a newspaper.

Brown has been given the public backing of his bosses at the Scottish Football Association (SFA), after he met SFA president Jack McGinn in Glasgow.

Brown refused to comment after the meeting, saying his lawyers had told him not to say anything.

But McGinn, after conferring with SFA colleagues, told reporters: "There is absolutely nothing to make us think that Craig has ever, in any way, acted in the bigoted manner of which he is accused."

"And I think that any reasonable person would come to the same conclusion."

Brown later mounted a strong public defence.

Speaking on BBC radio, he slammed the bigotry claims as "nonsense" and said:

"When I heard these allegations I took legal advice."

"I issued an instant categorical denial."

"I issued an action in the Court of Session which, if I lose, will cost me a lot of money, I was so convinced that this was nonsense."

IN BRIEF

English Premiership club Tottenham Hotspur insisted that Israeli club Hapoel Haifa could not sue the club after Naguan Garayeb's 1.5 million pound (\$2.3 million) move to White Hart Lane collapsed.

Spurs tried to renegotiate the deal for the left-back, claiming he had failed a medical because of a knee injury.

Hapoel maintained the transfer had already gone through and is threatening to take legal action.

But Spurs director of football David Pleat said: "We're in the clear. We're not foolish enough to do an irrevocable contract so that we would be subject to any action should a player fail a medical."

"He signed an agreement on what he would be paid should he receive a permit and should he pass a medical satisfactorily."

"Unfortunately for Naguan, different views on the medical were conclusive," Pleat said.

Chelsea's new signing Mario Melchiot looks certain to miss the start of the English Premiership season after breaking a bone in his foot.

Manager Gianluca Vialli's first summer signing, on a free transfer from Dutch side Ajax Amsterdam, is in a cast after undergoing surgery on the injury and the defender is unlikely to be fit for the Premiership kick-off on August 7.

Everton completed the signing of striker Kevin Campbell from Turkey's Trabzonspor for around \$4.68 million.

"I'm over the moon, delighted that now I am an Everton player," Campbell told Everton Club before heading to Italy to link up with his team mates at a training camp.

Campbell, 29, left Trabzon last season following a racial controversy when the club's president said on television: "We bought a cannibal who calls himself a striker."

He joined Everton on loan in March and played a major part in saving the Liverpool club from the threat of relegation, scoring nine goals in eight matches.

"Bygones are bygones now," he said of the controversy.

England and Arsenal defender Tony Adams enjoyed his crowning moment when he collected an MBE from the Queen at Buckingham Palace.



Tony Adams, collected an MBE from the Queen.

"I feel fantastic — it's a proud moment," said Adams. "It means all the hard work I've put in has been rewarded — I'm a mere, humble human being."

The Queen asked him whether he had managed to rest during the summer, but Adams said: "I only managed three or four weeks off and we've been back in training for two weeks. The first game is the Charity Shield, a weeks on Sunday."

"This is my 17th season and I hope to have one or two more."

It was a poignant moment for Adams, who has fought back from alcoholism and a prison sentence. His career seemed in ruins nine years ago when he was jailed for drink-driving, but he announced to his team-mates that he was an alcoholic in 1996 and launched a successful comeback.

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INCE TO TALK AS HAMANN READY TO WALK



Dietmar Hamann

Paul Ince has been locked in talks with Middlesbrough boss Bryan Robson as the volatile player attempts to end his Liverpool nightmare.

The England star has been stunned by Anfield boss Gerard Houllier's decision to cast him adrift but has found help in his former Manchester United skipper Robson who was bidding to come to his rescue.

Liverpool and Boro have yet to come to an agreement over a fee, while Ince — who has two years of his contract to run — is also demanding a substantial pay-off.

Robson is keen to harness Ince's abrasive skills in an attempt to mould his side into a potent Premiership force and is also closing in on AC Milan's £4million-rated German full back Christian Ziege.

The Boro boss is hoping to complete both deals in the next few days after saying: "I am getting close with a couple of players. We are getting somewhere and hopefully there will be some good news for our fans in the next few days. Things have been frustrating because it has taken so long."

The chase for Ziege has gone on throughout the summer but Robson has had to persuade Boro chairman Steve Gibson to pay out anything up to £2m and substantial wages on 31-year-old Ince.

Liverpool's bid to replace Ince with Newcastle's £8m-rated Germany midfielder Dietmar Hamann, however, could be sabotaged by Lazio.

Newcastle have already attempted to bring Lazio's Spain midfielder Ivan De la Pena to St James' Park on loan but are now talking about a permanent move with 25-year-old Hamann going in the opposite direction. Any deal would value both players at £10m, around £2m more than Liverpool have offered.

Liverpool know that Hamann has expressed a desire to join them though. Anfield's executive vice-chairman Peter Robinson said: "Newcastle gave us permission to speak to Dietmar Hamann's advisers and it was established that he would be happy to come to Liverpool if we can agree terms with Newcastle."

In case the Hamann deal falls through, Liverpool are also keeping an eye on Arsenal's England Under 21 midfielder Stephen Hughes who has rejected a £4m move to Fulham.

Liverpool manager Houllier has emphasised his determination to keep Robbie Fowler at Anfield by naming him as the club's new vice-captain.

The 24-year-old England striker — a long-standing target for Highbury boss Arsene Wenger — ended last season in disgrace, banned for six matches and forced to pay £70,000 in FA and club fines after a series of controversial incidents.

But Fowler promised that he would not be "daft enough to repeat those stupid actions" and Houllier has reaffirmed his faith in the player with the appointment.

The club's new skipper, Jamie Redknapp, said that predecessor Ince had been one of the first to congratulate him.

"Incey has been great to me," said Redknapp. "It has obviously been a difficult time for him, but he understands that these things happen in football. I've played under some great captains in my career, like Ince and Tony Adams with England. Hopefully, all those influences will rub off on me."

Former Newcastle and England midfielder Rob Lee, who is available for a bargain £1m, has had talks with Leicester City.

MARGAS TO GO, RIO TO STAY

West Ham have told runaway Chilean Javier Margas to forget all about a return to Upton Park after he audaciously asked to be allowed back.

The 2million pound defender walked out on the Hammers after just three appearances last season claiming he had a knee injury and his family were homesick.

Amazingly, he pleaded for another chance after appearing for his country at the Copa America in Paraguay — but has been rebuffed by West Ham boss Harry Redknapp.

Margas said, "West Ham are the only club I want to play for in the Premiership. I want to do well there and stay until my contract runs out in 2002."

"I want to give 100 per cent to them now but before, when I was injured, everything was out of my hands."

"Originally I returned to Chile also because I was homesick, but now I have a new attitude."

Hammers manager Redknapp replied, "I wish him

all the best, but it is best for all concerned if he finds a new club."

Redknapp hopes to clinch the 3million pound signing of Derby's Costa Rican striker Paulo Wanchope this week. Two West Ham bids have been rejected, but Redknapp said, "There is a deal to be done there, I'm sure."

Striker Samassi Abou has returned to France to join Troyes on trial with a view to a permanent move.

The Hammers beat Conference side Kingstonian 4-1 in a friendly last week, with Paul Kitson and Paolo Di Canio both on the scoresheet.

Defender Rio Ferdinand has ended speculation about his future — for the time being at least — by signing a new contract which will tie him to West Ham until 2005.

Ferdinand, 20, has been strongly linked with a move to the continent in recent weeks, with Roma and then Real Madrid said to be vying for his services at a proposed fee of around £12m.

But the England international, who put pen to paper on a seven-year deal last year, has now agreed an improved contract with the Upton Park club.

He turned professional at Upton Park in November 1995, and has emerged as one of the most effective rearguard players in the Premiership, with skill and pace a prominent part of his game.

"The speculation has been flattering but I'm committed to the club, to doing well for the club and hopefully bringing some trophies to the club," said Ferdinand.

"I'm still learning the game and I've said all along that I'm happy to continue learning my trade with West Ham."

"I'm proud to be part of the squad and I'm confident we can build on last season's success and go on to really challenge for the top honours."

"I've never ever said I wanted to go to Roma or any other club. This has put it all to rest and I'm thoroughly delighted to be staying at West Ham."

"It's flattering but it can be unsettling in some ways. Luckily it wasn't during the season but I'm pleased to get it out of the way and I can get on with my football."

"I'm happy now; I wouldn't have signed the contract if I wasn't happy. You can't win things and be unhappy. If you win things you'll have a smile on your face."



Javier Margas wants to stay at West Ham but Harry Redknapp has said no.

NEWCASTLE CHASING MORE SIGNINGS

Kieron Dyer's 6million pound move to Newcastle will take Ruud Gullit's summer spending to almost 17million pound.

But there are still a dozen reasons why the United boss will have to tighten his belt before giving the cheque book a further beating.

Ipswich star Dyer has only to thrash out personal terms after the clubs agreed a 6m pound deal last weekend.

The arrival of the 20-year-old, already on the verge of full England honours, represents Gullit's first swoop for an English player since taking charge at Newcastle.

The midfielder follows hot on the heels of central defensive trio Alain Goma, Elena Marcelino and Franck Dumas, snapped up for a total of 10.5m pound.

However, Gullit remains only too well aware of the fact that his playing staff needs major surgery.

The recently dubbed Dirty Dozen — 12 Newcastle players who no longer figure in the manager's long term plans — represent something like 15m pound on the open market.

But, just as crucially, their total wage bill comes to close on pounds 100,000 a week.

That means that by the time the new season kicks into gear, Newcastle will have splashed out a staggering 1m pound on wages to players they no longer require.

It is fast becoming a source of great embarrassment

to the Geordies. And, as financial director Les Wheatley revealed recently, "We do not have a bottomless pit. In order to buy new players, others have to be sold."

Gullit, however, will still push through another deal within the next few days when he completes a year-long loan deal for Lazio's Spanish midfielder Ivan de la Pena. The total package for the former Barcelona midfielder will cost around pounds 1.8m.

Dyer, meanwhile, will be viewed as an exciting signing by the Geordie faithful.

His sparkling form for Ipswich last season brought him to the attention of several top Premiership clubs, and Newcastle's swoop will delight supporters who were beginning to fear that moves for English players were a thing of the past at the club.

The skilful and pacy Dyer has been chased by Leeds, Middlesbrough and West Ham, but has he revealed, "Newcastle will be the first club I have spoken to."

"There has been a lot of speculation, but I went in to training at Ipswich and the boss took me to one side to tell me that the club had accepted a bid from Newcastle."

"It was just what I wanted to hear. It suits me down to the ground."

Dyer's agent Jonathon Barnett added: "Kieron has wanted to go to Newcastle ever since he heard that Ruud Gullit was interested a while ago. He admires Ruud greatly and sees Newcastle as a major, major club."

Barnett flew into Newcastle yesterday for talks with United's chief executive Freddie Fletcher and added, "Kieron will come up later, but he wants to join Newcastle."

"There could be one other club involved, but it won't be a problem if things go well at the Newcastle end."

That club is believed to be West Ham, although manager Harry Redknapp seems certain to lose out on the talented youngster.

Fletcher said, "Kieron is a young English player with bags of talent. Ruud has had his eye on him for a while and we are delighted to have agreed a fee with Ipswich."

"So far as balancing the books goes, the media gets hung up about what's here and what's there. But I've always said that the biggest difficulty is persuading clubs to sell their best players."

"Kieron is English, very talented and at the right age."

Dyer is an England Under-21 regular who was an unused sub for Kevin Keegan's senior side in the Euro 2000 qualifier against Bulgaria. His arrival could well hasten the departure of want-away German international midfielder Dietmar Hamann.

Liverpool have lodged a firm bid of 8m pound for the player although Newcastle, not so keen to sell to another Premiership club, have yet to accept.

Ipswich boss George Burley could use a slice of the

Dyer cash to buy Lee Briscoe of Sheffield Wednesday.

Briscoe, who can play in defence or midfield, failed to hold down a first team place at Hillsborough last season.

Wednesday boss Danny Wilson is looking to raise cash in the transfer market after making four signings this summer.



Ivan de la Pena is heading to Newcastle.

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MIGHTY KEANE TO LEAVE OLD TRAFFORD

Roy Keane has been given an ultimatum by Manchester United — agree to sign a new contract by the end of the month or be sold.

It is understood that United's money men are not prepared to budge over their offer of around £28,000 a week but Keane is holding out for a four-year deal at £40,000 a week knowing that top clubs at home and abroad are prepared to throw considerable riches at him if he waits until next summer and becomes a free agent under the Bosman ruling.

United know that Keane could sign a FIFA pre-contract with a continental club on January 1 and are not prepared to allow this high-profile saga to drag on until then.

An Old Trafford insider said that if there is no agreement with their inspirational captain within a fortnight then United will try to cash in on the former Nottingham Forest midfielder.

Their first call will be to Juventus to try to engineer a swap deal with Dutchman Edgar Davids. Ideally United want to link the pair in the same side, forming a partnership which would send a chill through the rest of Europe just weeks before the start of a new Champions League campaign.

But if Keane digs in his heels over his demands for a £2million-a-year contract, United will actively encourage bids for the player despite his hero status with the Old Trafford fans.

United know that Keane's value — currently around £20m in an inflated transfer market — will quickly shrink to nothing the closer he moves to the end of his contract.

The player holds the greater power, as Liverpool discovered to their cost with Steve McManaman, who rejected all overtures from the Anfield board and has now joined Real Madrid without his home-town club receiving a penny.

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson regards Keane as the key player in his star-studded side and told United's ClubCall: "He is our most influential player so it's important that we get him to sign."

Even so, United are not prepared to smash their wage structure to concede what they consider excessive demands from Keane or any other player.

In the case of a top transfer target such as Davids, United could offer a big signing-on fee to attract the player on wages of around £30,000 a week — the Old Trafford salary ceiling.

Davids is keen to join United, especially after being unsettled by Juventus' attempts to use him in their vain quest to sign former Lazio striker, Christian Vieri.

Although that deal collapsed when Vieri preferred to join Inter Milan, it sowed the seeds of doubt in Davids' mind over his long-term future in Turin. That opened the door to a £10m bid from United.

Now that could be rebuilt with Keane in the equation. Juventus, along with Inter Milan and Lazio, have been long-time admirers of the combative Irishman and would be willing to pay him around £60,000 a week.



United know that upholding their rigid wage structure could damage their lofty ambitions if Keane is lost to the cause — but it is a risk they are prepared to take.

Keane's adviser, Michael Kennedy, admits the two parties are well apart and it is now becoming increasingly likely that the 27-year-old will be on his way out of Old Trafford one way or the other.

Keane himself has insisted, "I won't sell myself short. I would think this would be my last contract so it has got to be right. I won't go into any deal I am not happy with even though I may be captain of Manchester United."

With the signings deadline for the Champions League looming, United are determined to finalise their squad for the defence of the trophy they won so gloriously in May.

Keane has the backing of the Professional Footballers' Association in his battle for a new deal.

PFA deputy chief executive Brendan Batson said, "It isn't that Roy Keane is holding United to ransom."

The club have him under contract and are trying to extend that contract while Roy is simply trying to get the best terms possible. That's all there is to it.

"The club have their valuation of what they feel he is worth and Roy has his own valuation. There is always a bit of brinkmanship in these matters and for a deal to be done what usually happens is that either side agrees on a point between the two positions."

Andy Walsh, chairman of the Independent Manchester United Supporters Association, said, "The supporters want Roy Keane to stay at Manchester United and the key to all this is that the player himself wants to stay."

"Top players are well paid and there comes a point when they must weigh up the success they've achieved in their professional lives against the riches to be earned."

"Most fans would say that the club should not be held to ransom but the club should also be a little bit more imaginative in the remuneration package being offered to him."

Teddy Sheringham, one of the goal heroes of United's Champions League triumph over Bayern Munich, is also hoping for a new deal.

He is about to begin the last year of his contract and while Italian club Torino want him, the 33-year-old striker said, "I have not heard anything yet but I am happy here and I want to stay involved."

UNITED TO PLAY IN FA CUP?

Manchester United fans were given a firm indication that their team could yet defend the FA Cup this season after the FA made it clear that the club's decision to withdraw was far from irreversible.

Representatives from three supporters organisations met FA executive director David Davies to hear that the association had not closed the door on United and still wanted to welcome the Treble winners back into the fold.

The European champions have not yet formally withdrawn from the competition or confirmed to FIFA their stated intention to compete in the World Club Championship in

Brazil next January, and this meeting added to the impression that all parties were attempting to keep the options open for as long as possible.

The news turns the spotlight back on United because the only viable solution, which is at least acceptable to the FA, would be for the club to leave behind as strong a scratch side as it could to compete in the cup's fourth round, assuming that the third round had been navigated in December.

Andy Walsh, from the Independent Manchester United Supporters Association, said, "We remain hopeful and David Davies said that the door was not closed. It was a positive meeting."

ARSENAL FURIOUS AT RIVALS SPURS

Arsenal fans were seething after bitter rivals Tottenham celebrated projecting a giant image of their new shirt onto Highbury.

Furious supporters jammed the White Hart Lane switchboard to protest about the cheeky stunt late last week, which was missed by Arsenal security guards.

Highbury stadium manager John Beattie even tried to claim it had never happened, only to be contradicted by a club spokesman.

Across north London, Tottenham fans delighted in the successful foray into enemy territory.

A Spurs official said: "We have had some calls from Arsenal fans, but I would have to say that it seems like a job well done."

"We didn't want it to offend them. It was just meant to be a joke."

"But if they are complaining, it means the new shirt has attracted the publicity we want."

An Arsenal spokesman later admitted: "We are treating it as a bit of fun."

David O'Leary has handed three of his Leeds misfits a spot of square-bashing in an attempt to speed up their departure from Elland Road.

The Leeds boss has decided to get tough with Clyde Wijnhard, David Robertson and Bruno Ribeiro and has sent them for a week of hard labour at Catterick Garrison after dumping them from his first-team squad.

The trio were left out of the 22-man party which departed for a week's pre-season tour to Sweden and Finland earlier last week.

Wijnhard is still stalling over a 1.5m pound move to First Division Huddersfield, so he's been handed some 6am starts along with the rest of the reserve team squad by hard-liner O'Leary.

Robertson has not figured for 18-months after rupturing cruciate ligaments, and Portuguese midfielder Ribeiro angered O'Leary at the end of last season by demanding a transfer.

O'Leary is determined to trim his squad after bringing in three new signings this summer.



Costa Rican international striker Paulo Wanchope agreed to a 3.5 million pounds (\$5.5 million) move from Derby County to English Premiership rival West Ham.

West Ham was successful with a second bid for 22-year-old Wanchope after failing with an initial 2.5-million-pound bid.

Wanchope watched his new club in action against Finnish team Jokerit in the InterToto Cup at Upton Park but his British government work permit must be reissued to his new employers before he can play for West Ham.

"That shouldn't be a problem," said manager Harry Redknapp.

"Paulo is still a regular in his international team and we expect the permit to be renewed in about 10 days."



The Polish federation has moved its crunch Euro 2000 qualifying game against England to a small Warsaw stadium from a larger venue in the southwest of the country.

ENGLAND TO PLAY IN SMALLER STADIUM

The switch has been made despite the stadium holding only 12,000.

The government has offered to pay a third of the cost of adding another 5,000-7,000 temporary seats, with English fans due to get 10 percent of all income from tickets.

The original venue in Chorzow, Silesia, would have held 32,000.

"Our players feel more comfortable in Warsaw and are more used to playing on the Legia ground, it's our

lucky stadium," said Jaroslaw Kolakowski, spokesman for the soccer federation.

Both sides need to win the Sept. 8 match. Poland has 12 points from six games, three more than England, which beat the Poles 3-1 at Wembley in March.

But England's other match is home against Luxembourg while the Poles have to play unbeaten group leader Sweden on the road.

"What spoke for the Legia stadium was the atmosphere and playing there is what the manager and the team want," federation head Michal Listkiewicz told Polish television.

Poland have won all six games they have played in Warsaw in the last two years, including two Euro championship qualifiers.

England must win the rest of their games to have any chance of qualifying for EURO 2000.



The Poland match will be a do or die match for Keegan.

Ryan Giggs

